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AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

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African Violet Magazine

DEC. 1950 VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2

Merry Christmas To All

Every wish for good cheer.
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Your National Society sends - -

Cordial greetings of the season,
Hopes your Xmas celebration
Reaches all your expectation.
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A Happy New Year

MISSOURI BOTANICAL
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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

The assistance of "Program Notes" is gratefully acknowledged for the holly design on the front cover and for the suggestions given us thru other drawings all of which inspired the illustrations for "The Convention."

With heart felt thanks I wish to express my appreciation to each and every member of the Staff. Enough praise cannot be given them . . . they are wonderful!

And to you and you every wish for happiness during the coming year . . .

Most sincerely,

Alma Wright

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African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

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Front Cover: Holly design reprinted with permission of "Program Notes." Poem by Mary Parker inspired by the 1948 Christmas Greeting of Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer to the Long Beach Saintpaulia Society.

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Alma Wright, Editor
4030 McCalla Ave., Knoxville 15, Tenn.

Mary Parker, Assistant Editor
Harrill Hills, Knoxville 18, Tenn.

Evan Roberts, Research Editor
355 N. Harrison St., E. Lansing, Mich.

Floyd L. Johnson, Advertising Mgr.
79 West Gibson St., Canandaigua, N. Y.

Arthur Chard, Art Editor
31 Jefferson Ave., Haverhill, Mass.

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 West 3rd, Perry, Iowa.

Neil C. Miller, Mgr. Veterans Affairs
Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J.

Contributing Editors - Boyce Edens, Regina Gottshall, LeBerta Morgan, H. G. Harvey

News Reporters - Harriett F. Lawton, Emily Hodan, Daisy Jones, Warren Gottshall, Phyllis Ferrall, Martha Mears, Ruth Dahnke, Florence Foltz, Lauretta L. Littig

Homing Pigeon Dept.:
Violet Berry, News Editor
710 E. 6th St., Mt. Vernon, Ind.

Gladys Canner, Membership Mgr.
Route 1, Creek Rd., Herkimer, N. Y.

OFFICERS

Mrs. Arthur Radtke, President
3334 Orion St.
Cincinnati 13, Ohio

Mr. Wm. E. Merkle, 1st V. Pres.
1238 Maple St.
Mentor, Ohio

Mrs. C. H. Harris, 2nd V. Pres.
757 Athens Boulevard
Los Angeles 44, California

Mrs. Martin Wangberg, Rec. Sec'ty.
1920 West Third St.
Perry, Iowa

Mr. Floyd L. Johnson, Corres. Sec'ty.
79 West Gibson Street
Canandaigua, N. Y.

Mrs. Earl Mutchner, Membership Sec.
606 Richmond, Ave.
Richmond, Indiana

Mr. Boyce M. Edens, Treas.
2694 Lenox Rd.,N.E.
Atlanta, Ga.

President's Message

A Successful Year Closes

As we come to the end of our fiscal year -- our official family is being changed somewhat.

Some of our fine officers, having served our Society faithfully, are retiring. They have been an inspiration to me, and I have enjoyed knowing them and working with them. Our entire membership owes them a debt of gratitude. We are all happy to have them as members on whom we may, and probably shall, call for advice.

To our new officers -- Welcome! We are not strangers -- having worked side by side on a number of projects over the past several years. I am sure we may count on continued co-operation and service to our fine Society, so that we may continue to grow and expand our influence.

Concerning expansion -- our growth has been so phenomenal and so solid that a major change has had to be made. The Treasurer's work has become impossible to handle simply as an extra chore. Mrs. R. J. Schadewald, who was elected to this office, has had to give it up because of the tremendous volume of work and the increased time demands.

It became necessary, therefore, for your Executive Committee to call back into harness our old friend, Mr. Boyce Edens, who has assumed this office.

High on the list of the joys of the past year are the many delightful new varieties of African violets given us by our commercial growers. There are many more wonderful developments in process of propagation. They will be available in the near future and we shall all share these beauties.

As I recall the accomplishments of the year just ended, probably the one greatest advance in our field has been the improvements in pest control and the wonderful new insecticides being produced for us. These have helped tremendously to reduce the one unpleasantness in violet culture -- losing our fine plants.

The story of African violets is definitely one of steady progress. More and better violets must be our goal.

My fellow officers join me in wishing you all that is good in the coming year. We shall do our very best to merit your support.

Sincerely,

Myrtle Radtke

Pictures used with permission of "Flower Grower"

Water Culture . . . .

Alta M. Richert, Mich.

Up until the moment of the crash it had been a quiet peaceful evening in the Richert domicile. Soft music from the radio, friend husband reading the newspaper in his favorite chair, the children playing happily in the living room, while I was finishing the dinner dishes. Then the loud noise of falling furniture, and a couple of tearful childish voices crying "Oh, look at Mommy's violet!" In the middle of the living room floor lay what was once my pet Blue Boy. It was a six year old plant and a constant bloomer. My husband said "Why don't you put it in water, honey! Maybe it will live." I did just that.

So it happened that I discovered water culture for African violets. That was the beginning of the most interesting phase of my fascinating hobby. Soon I found my Blue Boy was thriving and putting forth new leaves. The new root system looked much healthier than that developed in soil. I liked it in the pretty vase, so rather than plant it in soil I fed it a wee bit of Hyponex. Soon buds were setting. All this happened three years ago and this plant has never been without blossoms since. This Blue Boy is now nine years old and still holds the spotlight in my collection. At this writing there are thirty-five blossoms on the single crown plant.

My Pink Beauty was the second to receive the water culture treatment. On both these plants the blossoms attain two inches diameter at maturity, which is much larger than they were in soil. I now have twenty-two plants in water. Fifteen are blooming and another three will join the show within a week. Others have tiny buds showing.

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever!" A blooming African violet is lovely even in an ordinary flower pot; but put it in an exquisite vase or a pretty pottery container and its beauty is greatly enhanced. I'm ever alert looking for attractive containers, and that doesn't necessarily mean expensive ones. My Pink Beauty is much admired in a green pottery bird bath with a cute little yellow bird perched on it. I treasure a pair of little oriental vases brought to me from Japan by a friend who was a missionary to that far away land. I have a bluebird, as well as a woodpecker, both perched beside a hollow tree stump, that I found in a local five and ten cent store. And I mustn't forget to mention

my favorite, a cunning little figurine couple attached to a china container, a Mother's day gift from my boy and girl when they were tiny. I do not use metal or clear glass containers. I have some sweet little pink and blue gold trimmed glass vases that have proved satisfactory. English bone china cups and saucers are lovely, as are pretty china sugars and creamers. It's loads of fun to browse around for interesting and different containers.

Beautiful table centerpieces can be arranged in a matter of minutes when your plants are in water. When I want to make a low arrangement, I put my prettiest plants in custard cups and set them in a low bowl. The foliage completely hides the cups, which contain water of course. It's as easy as changing cut flowers from one vase to another. It is also interesting to combine colors. Right now, I have a small white plant and a pale blue in the same container.

The size of the container must of course correspond with the size of the plant. The leaves support the weight of the plant on the rim of the container. The water level must be high enough to cover all the roots, but below the crown of the plant. The manufacturers of Hyponex recommend two teaspoons to a gallon of water, which is probably the best proportion to use. I do not mix it in large quantities. My larger containers hold approximately one cup. I put in a scant eighth of a teaspoon and add lukewarm water. The smaller ones get less in proportion. Occasionally the center leaves get sort of a grayish coating and feel damp to the touch. When this happens I wash the leaves carefully and put them on a plain water diet for a while. My little beauties are quite heavy drinkers so I give them a bit of water about every other day. At approximately ten day or two week intervals they are completely changed. While the plant rests in a water glass, I empty the container, wash it thoroughly, and add fresh Hyponex and water.

Of course, I realize that the chemical content of the water in some communities could present a problem in water culture. We are fortunate in Marysville in that our violets like to drink the same water that we do. However, there is always the possibility of rain or snow water — which would be the natural solution to that problem.

Do you think all this sounds like a lot of work? It isn't, it's fun! You should see the bright eyed multicolored faces that smile their "Thank you's" from my built-in bay window garden. They are the joy of my life!

S. AMANIENSIS

Photo by E. N. Huby

Saintpaulia Amaniensis

A New Species of Saintpaulia

Evan Roberts, Mich.

New species of African violets are continually being discovered in their native habitat. Just exactly how many different species of **Saintpaulia** will finally be described is a matter of speculation.

The newest of the African violets has a distinct creeping stem and is similar in this respect to **Saintpaulia magungensis**, **S. grotei**, and **S. goetzeana** which also may be grown as creeping, cascade or climbing specimens. Photographs of **Saintpaulia grotei** to illustrate how these stemmed species may be grown will be in the March issue of this magazine. These beautiful plants were grown by Mr. Harvey Cox of Long Beach, California who recently won a blue ribbon awarded for the "best in the show" at an African violet show in Exposition Park, Los Angeles. A description of **S. grotei** may be found in the African Violet Magazine, Vol. 3, Number 3, March, 1950.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Robert Wright, Director of Publications for the African Violet Society, Professor Charles Gilly, Taxonomist, Michigan State College, and to Harvey C. Cox for their generous assistance in the preparation of this article. The description of the new species, **Saintpaulia amaniensis**, is as follows:

Stems procumbent, branched, rooting where they come in contact with soil, pale green, up to 10 cm. long, 4—8mm. in diameter, with internodes 2—15 mm. long. Vegetative parts of plant covered with silky pubescence of long and short hairs intermixed, the short hairs appressed, the long ones spreading and 3—6 times longer than the short ones. Leaves medium green above, pale greenish-white below, ovate to ovate-elliptical, 2.5-5 cm. long and 2—3.5 cm. wide, apices acute or subacute, bases subcordate, margins crenate-den-

tate or dentate, slightly revolute; midrib prominent, impressed above, scarcely paler green than the upper leaf surface; primary veins generally 4 on either side of the midrib, impressed above, prominent below. Petioles 4—9 cm. long, 2—3 mm. in diameter, nearly terete; inflorescences 2-flowered, the peduncles 3—4 cm. long, arising from the upper leaf axils and exceeding the subtending leaves, bibracteolate; bractlets linear, acute 1—2 mm. long and nearly 0.3 mm. wide; pedicels 1.5—2 cm. long, erect at anthesis, usually reflexed following flowering. Flowers about 2.7 cm. broad when fully opened; sepals 5, brownish purple, lanceolate, 2.5—3 mm. long. Corolla violet-blue, the central portion darker, 5-lobed, the outer surface sparsely pubescent and the margins of the lobes densely and minutely ciliate with glandular hairs; upper two lobes oval, 7—10 mm. long and 4—5 mm. wide, the inner margins overlapping about 4 mm.; lateral lobes oval, 10—12 mm. long and 7—10 mm. wide; lower lobe broadly oval, 12—15 mm. long and 8—10 mm. wide. Stamens two, inserted at mouth of corolla tube on either side of the lower lobe; filaments 2.5—3mm. long; anthers connivent, deltoid-cordate, bright yellow, about 1.5—2 mm. long and 2 mm broad at the base, the sacs divergent and dehiscent by short basal slits. Staminodes two, papilliform, inserted on tube, rarely more than 0.1 mm. long. Ovary surrounded at base by narrow reddish nectary disk, at anthesis 1.5 mm. long, ovoid-conical, pale green, gradually tapering into the slender pale violet-blue style 5—7 mm. long; stigma minutely 2-lobed.

Type Specimen: E. P. Roberts 2 (deposited in the herbarium of Michigan State College) from a plant grown from material collected in the foothills of the Usambara Mountains, near Amani, Tanganyika Territory, East Africa.

Saintpaulia amaniensis E. P. Roberts **sp. nov.**—Herba basi ramosa ramis procumbentibus, demum adscendentibus, cum foliis pedunculis et sepalis pubescentia pilis brevis et pilis longis intermixtis; foliis subcarnosis cum lamina crenato-dentata vel dentata ovata vel ovato-elliptica, ad basim subcordata et ad apicem acuta vel subacuta, subtus alboviridis; pedunculis tenuibus folia superantibus 2-floris, bibracteolatis, bracteolis linearis acutis; sepalis lanceolatis, corollae tubum brevum paullo superantibus; corollae lobis densiuscule glanduloso-ciliatis, posticus ovalis quam lobi laterales ovales 1½-plo brevioribus, lobo antico late ovalo quam lateralia subaequale; staminum 2, filamentis exsertis. antheris deltoideo-cordiformibus; staminodiis 2 minimis papilliformibus; ovario basi disco rubro annuliformi instructo, conoideo in stilum 3—4-plo longiorem attenuato; stigmate minute bilobo.

Saintpaulia amaniensis appears to be most closely related to **S. magungensis** Roberts, also from the Usambara mountains, from which species it differs in having crenate-dentate and ovate to ovate-elliptical instead of crenate orbicular leaves, two staminodes instead of three, and glandular hairs on the corolla margin. From **S. grotei** Engl., which also has crenate-dentate leaf margins and glandular hairs on the corolla margin, **S. amaniensis** differs in leaf shape and number of staminodes.

"TUNIA"

Helen Pochurek, Ohio

A good many people have written me and asked me what "Tunia" meant, so here is my story.

A good many years ago, twenty, to be exact, I was working in my flower border. The children were small then, and a neighbor child was very much interested in what I was doing. He was having quite a time. Over what, you say? Well—— he was trying to get out a mouthful of words ——Mrs. Pochurek, to be exact. The poor lad was having a time of it! It so happened that the border was edged in petunias. Friend hubby, standing by, said, "Just call her Petunia." The little boy did - - - my children did and had a merry afternoon of it. The name stuck, I have been called "Petunia" ever since. (That was that long-ago before the African violet reared it's head in my home.)

Several years ago, while talking to my brother, who is a gladiolus grower and hybridizer, I asked him about certain varieties of glads that had the name "Tunia" tacked on to them. He told me of a grower of glads in Australia who had been a petunia hybridizer, before he grew gladioli. So—— when he came into the glad field, he called his glad introductions "Tunia's" this and that.

That seemed to fit me to a T, inasmuch as I had had the nickname for so long. After due inquiry, I became "Tunia" to my violet friends.

There you have it, as simple as that!

African Violets - - -

on Display at the Convention

Ruth Dahnke, Kansas

Something new has been added to the Convention Show; a table of Arrangements. A large African violet was placed in a shadow box. A small very delicate china container held an arrangement with pink Lily of the Valley forming this outline, African violet leaves as a background and pink African violet blossoms as a focal point. A shell contained African violet leaves and flowers that followed the line of rhythm of the shell. One arrangement, a living arrangement, used ferns for the outline and an African violet plant for the focal point. Variegated Hoya leaves were used in a white container and a mass of several colors of saintpaulias at the base. On a calla lily leaf was placed a white calla lily filled with African violet flowers. We could see from behind the courtesy line that one was arranged by Hazel Becker.

The African Violet Club of New Jersey was next in line. A huge plant of Crinkles was the largest plant in the entire show. It was a perfect specimen. We are sorry not to have an individual picture to share with you, but it was taken away before we even got the name of the owner. The Delaware County of Pennsylvania African Violet Society displayed a Ruffles that was quite large. It sat on a black base and was displayed by Mrs. Howard Morris. The second largest plant in the show was labeled Topaz but is known as Sapphire to us. The leaves are nicely quilted with light medium blue flowers and a darker blue eye. The owner was Mrs. J. V. Turner. Mrs. Hazel Becker displayed Jessie and a deep blue seedling with medium green foliage. There was Norseman in its bright blue that can belong only to Norseman. Blue Warrior was there with its deep green foliage and dark blue flower. Mrs. Ralph Frye displayed Double Margaret, dark blue double flowers and scalloped leaves.

We go next to the section of the African Violet Society of Salem County, New Jersey. Everyone will remember Mrs. Neil Miller's display. Perhaps we should tell you this one too was a living arrangement. The container was a hollow log shaped rather like a canoe. It was higher at the back. Ivy grew around the edge of the log as well as a vine that is surely one of the same genus as the African violet. In this setting grew beautiful African violets with so many flowers they must enjoy their companions. From left to right: a light orchid with deep green, long, tapering leaves; next a Blue Girl; then a deep orchid with heart shaped leaves; a white one; one of the reds and Blushing Maiden. The container was almost completely hidden by the well-shaped plants that have been growing in the log for a year and a half. It was awarded the seals of first, second and third places. Neil must be quite a help to Mary with her violets, judging from

From the African Violet Society of Salem, N. J. display an arrangement by Mrs. Neil Miller.

the Miller entries. Their White Supreme had fourteen huge flowers open and many buds; we counted them. Blue Girl sat quite sedately in a Colonial container that was the companion to the one holding Pink Amazon. We will let you count the flowers on Blue Girl in the picture.

Leola Elwell displayed Heart's Desire with its waved foliage and a lot of blooms. Mrs. Jessie Lewis exhibited a most unusual variegated plant. The variegations were not only green and white but the leaves toward the center of the plant had a pink tinge. The flowers were the color of West Coast Amethyst.

We stopped long enough to see the display showing the many steps necessary to print a color picture for our magazine. The print of Norseman, by Arthur Chard that came with our December '49 issue, had six different plates to produce those colors. Large leaves from S. Grotei and a duPont variety were on the same table, but neither Giant nor Mammoth would describe their size.

The next room was reserved for the Commercial Growers. They always give us a peep into the future, as well as good varieties we do not have to put on our waiting list. It is generous of them to share their newest varieties, knowing they will have many requests that cannot be filled for many months.

Just outside the Banquet room was the display of R. A. Brown & Sons Company. The "And Company" surely stands for Mrs. Brown as she is certainly a vital part of that organization. Mrs. Brown and Bobby Jr., were both there. Their plants had been enroute for some time because of the railroad strike and did not compare with the lovely plants we saw at their greenhouses last fall in Georgia, but they did bring back the memory of the 100,000 plants they have under glass. Perhaps the one that brought most attention was

Mrs. Dahnke holding one of Ulerys new white varieties.

Rose Pink because it was something really new in pink. The flower was pink at the edge but deepened to fuschia toward the center. This one has not been released but do watch for it. Brown's have been working for more varieties in pink for some time. Mrs. Evelyn Banks is about the shade of Pink Beauty and has very large flowers. The foliage is medium green. Rosy O'Grady is a lighter shade of pink, about the same shade as Dainty Maid. The foliage is very interesting, round leaves that are quilted and red underneath. It blooms profusely. Polka Dot made her debut, but we again have to go to their greenhouses to give you the description of Polka Dot in its true beauty. The leaf is medium green, slightly quilted and rather broad, but it is the flower that really stands out. It is the color of Red Head and on the tip of each petal is a white dot. On a mature plant it is very prominent. Semi-double has medium green foliage, slightly quilted. The flower is large like most singles but is very double at the center. It has many blossoms and is a good addition to a collection of doubles. The flowers are dark blue. Moire has a purple flower that is like watered silk; the foliage is medium green.

Brown's have developed plants suitable for the window sill or for those of you who do not have space for the large plants. They are Miniatures. They could call all of them Brown's Pet because Mrs. Brown seems partial to them but they did name a miniature Blue Girl Brown's Pet. Now it has a companion, Red Pet. Blue Missy attracted a lot of attention with its deep blue flower that has pistil but no stamens. Dwarf Topaz is just like its parent Topaz, red on the underside of the leaf and a darker blue flower. Brown's Palmer violet is a miniature dark blue double. The leaf is slender yet heavy.

Next was Tinari's display. Frank and Ann not only have lovely plants but are very artistic when displaying them. The brass containers could not compete with the beautiful plants. They were arranged on tiers. At the top sat America and Helen Wilson. There was Mentor Boy again, this time Double Mentor Boy. The lovely Blue Eyes was there in Amazon form with very dark green, quilted, waxy and spooned foliage and clusters of beautiful light blue flowers. Fantasy was there too with its medium green leaf and orchid flower that has variegations of purple. Often each petal has a completely different pattern in the two colors. Mammoth Red and Mammoth Blue are just what the name implies. Red King was a good deep wine color; Sailor Girl has dark green on the leaf in contrast to the white spot, red on the underside and the flower of Sailor Boy. Blue Warrior was such a beautiful plant. Burgundy has nice girl type foliage and the flower is really Burgundy.

Left to right - Blue Eyes Supreme, America, and Helen Wilson

White Girl with orchid edge

Above - Lacy Girl

Below - No. 41 Blossom with blue star

Mrs. Jennie Spoutz' display, at first glance, made us wonder if someone had helped Nature with a paint brush. Her display was not large but certainly something new and different. Two plants of White Girl were there, but we knew they were being released. The other whites were the surprise. One plant had girl type foliage and a white flower but the sides of each petal were deep blue, forming a star across the flower. The same effect was carried out with an orchid star. Another plant was medium green foliage with a lighter green center vein and slightly spooned. The flower was white with an orchid border around each petal. Still another white had a completely white flower, and this time it was the foliage that was the surprise. The dark green leaves were red on the underside. The combination of the white flower, green and red foliage was most pleasing. Jennie told us it is one of Ulery's introductions. Lacy Girl has a deep purple flower that appears to be a perfect circle with each petal so curled at the edge it gave the impression of fringe. The leaves were smooth and the same effect edged each leaf. It did not have girl type foliage. Jennie certainly knows an unusual violet when she sees it.

Now, we literally fight our way for a peek at Fischer's display. They had a large glass showcase filled with African violets, plants on top of the case and many behind the case. Paul Rockelmann was in charge; we all felt we knew Paul after the article Regina and Warren Gottshall wrote about his work for our magazine. If you have judged Fringettes from small plants just wait until you see the mature plants. The plants were large and a mass of blooms. These plants are the result of crossing Fischer's best Hybrid Doubles with selected single seedlings. They carry the characteristic lasting quality of the doubles but are single with the yellow stamens. The adjectives frilled and wavy hardly do them justice. They are well described as to color by their names, Red Lavender, Light Blue, Dark Blue, Dark Blue with dark green foliage, Blue Lavender with the red veins on the reverse of the leaf. Pure white and that lovely shade, Pale Mauvette Lavender. The leaves as well as the flowers are fringed. Paul brought special attention to a plant placed in a Rose Bowl. The plant was two years old yet only seven inches across. The foliage was dark green and the flowers looked like little roses in a beautiful shade of light blue; very double and each flower so well shaped. It had many flowers. It does not have a name, but it looked like an old fashioned corsage, perfectly arranged.

Most of you know about Fischer's very nice doubles, including Double Margaret,

Cont. page 49

African Violets Under

Fluorescent Light

Fay Stilwell, Conn.

It has now been fifteen months since my second fluorescent light fixture was installed. As mentioned in my first article in the September, 1949, magazine, this is the same size and type as the first fixture but has three white lamps or tubes instead of the two daylight type used in my first experiment. Since having this second fix-

This picture of my plants and plant stand was taken under the three tube fixture with white type bulbs.

ture installed I have been growing test plants under each light and, as far as African violets are concerned, I can find no particular advantage in using the stronger light and have come to the conclusion that the light intensity from the fixture with the two daylight type tubes is sufficient and that faster results would be obtained by lengthening the light period rather than increasing the light intensity.

The steps on my plant stands are 14 inches apart and for the past several months both light fixtures have been hung so that the tubes are 11 inches above the top step. By keeping small plants on this top shelf, I find they will start blooming in a short time. After a few flower stalks are well started, the little plants are then moved down to the second shelf, which is 25 inches below the light tubes. The reason for this is that the light intensity on the top step appears to be too strong for the flowers and in the paler colored varieties the color looks faded. In the darker colored varieties this is not so noticeable, but in all varieties, if grown on the top step after the flowers begin to open, the flowers act as though the light hurt their eyes and they turn their faces down.

In comparing six test plants, two each of Old Lace, Dupont Lavender Pink and Bit O'Heaven which were potted up at the same time in the same soil mixture and grown on the second shelf of each stand, I can detect no difference in the shade of the flowers of Old Lace and Bit O'Heaven and only a very slight variation in leaf color, but the flowers of Dupont Lavender Pink are decidedly paler under the three tube light. I believe that the one possible advantage of the three tube light for African violets is that many will bloom more freely on the third step, 39 inches below the tube, than in the same position under the other light.

For anyone intending to use these lights solely for African violets I do not think the results warrant the additional expense of the initial cost of the three tube fixture and cost of operating same. At the time I purchased these fixtures I had to take what was available, but if I were to install additional lights, I would endeavor to get fixtures with reflectors that diffuse the light over a larger area. The reflectors on my fixtures measure 13 inches from side to side across the bottom. If the reflectors were not quite so concave but were bent so the distance between the sides were 16 to 18 inches, I believe more plants could be grown within the light radius without reducing the light intensity so that it would be detrimental to the plants.

In the picture on page 24 of the September issue, the plant on the extreme right on the second step is Bi-Color, one of my original test plants. This is a single crown plant, has been repotted once in three years, and is still blooming profusely. While the flowers are not unusually large, being only 1¾ inches in diameter, it now has twelve flower stalks each producing from ten to twelve flowers, and the mature leaves measure up to 5½ inches long by 3¾ inches in diameter. The younger plants being grown under these lights give promise of doing equally well.

The humidity where I have these lights seems to stay around 35, varying slightly with the outside atmosphere. On very cold days the temperature will go down to 58° but usually runs between 62° and 65°.

For those who might be interested in growing different varieties of plants, this type of light would not be satisfactory for plants that normally require full sunlight. This past winter I have tried to keep over small plants and cuttings that are not winter hardy to use in our garden next summer, but have not been successful excepting with those that like partial shade. Impatiens and Maidenhair Ferns seem very happy, and I believe many Begonias that are ordinarily grown as house plants will do well. Of the few that I had the room to experiment with, the rex and those requiring full shade did nicely and had good color under the daylight fixture. I tried one of my seedling Calla Begonias under the three tube fixture and it was the loveliest I have ever had, both as to foliage and flower, and the fact that the white leaves had a decided red edge showed that this light was more than ample. One tuberous begonia that was so late in starting up in the summer that it had not bloomed by frost time was brought in and simply grew very rangy, producing no flower buds at all. I tried keeping cuttings of two of the fancy-leaved Geraniums and on the top step close to the light they retained a fairly good color. A double climbing Nasturtium that will not set seed but has to be propagated by cuttings, I am not sure will even live until time to put it outside again, as it has become weak and spindling.

This is the extent of my experimenting to date, and I sincerely hope that these comments may be of help to others who would like to try growing under fluorescent lights.

Ruth Yoars Story

It was away back in mid-summer of 1932 that a farm woman crossed the fields lying between her home and that of a neighbor on a small errand, the purpose of which has been forgotten by all concerned, but the unusual outcome of that visit has been felt in all parts of the country.

In the course of the visit, a new and very unusual plant was observed. Upon asking what it was, she found a new plant which has completely changed her life and the lives of others closely linked with her. This plant was an African violet, she was told by her friends, a new and very unusual house plant, in that it was always in bloom and must be kept well watered and cozy warm, as it was a tropical plant. Upon asking where one could be procured, she was told it had come from another state but it could be started from leaves. They said, "Just put the leaf in water and forget it. When well rooted transfer it to leaf mold and in one year it will bloom." Instructions were followed, and, in due course, the plants grew, three of them, and the business was on its way! However, this was the last thing thought of by anyone connected with the transaction.

In time an entire window was given over to the collection of plants, which was very large and always in full bloom. Soon people visiting in the home and passing the window began to admire them, coming in to ask questions and remark about their beauty and how unusual they were. These people began asking to buy one of the plants when a very special gift or occasion demanded something different. They sold at 75¢ each. In a short time, other varieties were discovered and were added to the first variety as soon as they could be procured, many new at that time. Soon the many plants became a problem in the home, it becoming apparent that it was retreat or go forward. Because of the real affection held for them, it was decided to go forward.

She began writing to other growers and from them received encouragement to prepare a room 16' x 38'. This house had been a poultry house that had stood idle for several years. The decision to use this house was not so much by choice as it was that it was impossible to get heat for a glass house at that time. This house was glassed all around with double glass and thoroughly insulated, benches were built and a circulating coal burning heater installed. This was in the fall of 1946.

This house was filled with many new varieties under propagation that winter. In the spring a price list of 14 varieties was mailed to a few hundred people. There was such a response to this list that it was resolved to build another house. In the spring of 1947, it was necessary to build a regular room, which was glassed and insulated as before; this room was 18' x 76' and heated with another heater. These stoves did a very good job of heating these houses.

In the course of time, due to the large demand for other plants as well as the violets, it was decided to add a glass house, which was done in the summer of 1949. In this house may be found many unusual plants, again the purpose being mainly to carry odd and rare plants that are not found in the regular greenhouse; many new ones are being added as they become available.

Before the glass house was added, the main need seemed to be space for propagating plants. There was space enough in the second house, if it could be utilized for the African violets and the other plants that take the same treatment. The plants demanding sun and cooler temperature were provided for in the sun house, this being accomplished by installing heat

View of one of the glass houses

Mrs. Yoars and some of her houseplants

and plumbing, arranged to make propagating tables that take care of all needs in this line.

To accomplish this, a boiler room was added. This room has a corner for sterilizing soil and pots. The job of packing is also taken care of in this room. The heat is an oil burning hot water plant entirely automatic. There is also an abundant supply of hot water for all watering where warm water is needed. The outcome of it all is that the second house is double-decked and the glass house is triple-decked through the center and double-decked on the sides, giving ample space for raising cuttings and seeds.

The cross-breeding and hybridizing of plants has brought out some lovely things that will be registered in the spring. Some have been put on the market, and new ones will follow in the spring and summer. The nursery has become a place for people to come from everywhere to admire the thousands of plants and have a friendly visit.

There is a guest book that every new visitor is asked to sign; in this way the signer is on the mailing list, as well as the many fine visits they recall. In this register may be found addresses from almost every state in the Union and Canada, Puerto Rico and Australia. Many who have visited the place have missed this register, as the idea was not put into action until the spring of 1949.

Before the first year was up, plants had been shipped to almost every state in the Union, and since then, the shipping has included Alaska, Canada and Puerto Rico. The number of shipments that have met with damage in shipping is remarkably small, due to the fact that every shipment is packed with greatest care and sent fully insured.

(Upon being asked what part she liked best, Mrs. Yoars said, "The pleasure of working with the plants and seeing them grow and bloom, and the pleasure of learning and conquering each new problem that may arise. We are fortunate to have loyal and faithful helpers in every part of our business, ready to take tasks and make every part of our work easier. We owe our helpers a vote of thanks for their splendid loyalty and helpfulness.")

From the collection of Mrs. A. H. Farnham

Photo by Robin

TRICHOSPORUM

(Greek meaning "hair-seed")

Louise F. Smouse, S. C.

Indeed this Trichosporum cousin of our African violet is well called "hair seed." When opening a precious packet of these seed you feel you have received a package of combings from some bronze locks.

These seed mature under African violet culture to free-flowering, woody plants, often climbing on trees in their native India, Malaya and East Asia. Ideal to greenhouse culture in hanging baskets lined with moss, through which the plants emerge to cover the basket, or grown in pots in a cozy window. They prefer loose, open fibrous soil and may be propagated very easily by stem cuttings of two leaves and a joint or the tip end of a spray. Root in peat and vermiculite in the same manner as for saintpaulias. They grow rapidly and transplant without difficulty. Trichosporum is an ideal companion for your African violets.

Four cultivated varieties are:

T. pulchrum, trailing with short petioled, broadly ovate, fleshy leaves, small toothed, with sunken veins. The two lipped tubular flowers of brilliant scarlet with yellow throat appear in clusters.

T. lobbianum which differs little from the above has narrower leaves downy corolla twice as long with purple downy calyx.

T. marmoratum or zebrina has oblong leaves to three and one half inches, reddish purple beneath with green flowers, spotted brown.

T. boschianum has oval leaves and scarlet flowers two inches long.

Success Story

Viola M. Roets, Wis.

I have had African violet plants for the past eleven years. My original plants, two, to be exact, were gifts and came from a florist. In time, after quite a battle to get them to bloom, I divided them, gave some away and kept one of the originals until last fall when I tossed it out and purchased a new plant.

It had never occurred to me to try to propagate them, as I didn't know anyone doing such fascinating work and thought only botanists and scientists performed such intricate accomplishments. That is -- until the spring of 1948.

I went out on the Cancer Fund drive and two of the ladies I called on had beautiful violet plants. They also had leaves in water sitting about. Upon inquiring, they told me that this was a means of rooting the leaves, thus augmenting their collection and maintaining a supply of nice young plants. I guess the admiration for their "astounding achievements" (to me at least) must have shown in my face, for both of these ladies offered me leaves and suggested that I try to do likewise. I was thrilled and carefully carried them home, placed them in pots of soil not even daring to hope I could eventually obtain as lovely a plant as theirs. Several leaves died off, but one remained in each pot and one morning along in the summer, I discovered tiny leaves peaking thru the ground. What a thrill! By Thanksgiving one of the plants came into bloom and shortly thereafter the other rewarded me with blossoms. One was Ionantha, the other variety I do not know. They bloomed continuously until mid-summer and Ionantha had 45 blossoms during its last blooming period in August. As for size, I modestly confess my plants excelled those of the two dear ladies.

That was the beginning! I acquired leaves of other named varieties and began propagating, using five different methods and had almost 100% success, losing perhaps a half dozen leaves at the most. I also kept a detailed record on each variety. By August, I had over 125 plants in various stages of growth with over 85 as a result

of my own propagating methods, and a total of twenty-six varieties.

On March 31st, I received twenty-four little plants. They grew beautifully for exactly two months or until the first of June. Then I noticed on a Double Duchess that the crown was beginning to get very hard to the touch, the leaves twisted and stunted in growth and extremely hairy, with a dark red color on the under side. As I was brushing the leaves regularly, this condition gradually spread to a few more and then a few more.

Having Helen Van Pelt Wilson's book on African violets, I feared mite so purchased a lens but could discern nothing.

Making a trip to Northern Wisconsin and having read in our Wisconsin Horticulture Magazine that Mrs. Glenn Fisher's African violet collection was being "viewed" by Garden Club members in that vicinity, I wrote Mrs. Fisher asking permission to stop and see her collection as we were going thru her city. She graciously sent me directions to her home and I saw her beautiful plants and more than I dreamed existed.

During our visit I told her of my concern and asked if she knew or had had a similar experience. She hadn't and had never seen mite infestation. She told me about the African Violet Society and their Homing Pigeons, neither of which I was aware of, and gave me Mr.Gottshall's address and suggested that I join the Society.

Returning home within a few days, I found more plants showing the same distortion. The fumigating bath using Naphthalene flakes and moth balls proved to be completely disastrous to four plants. I was getting discouraged. Toward the end of the month, Mrs. Fisher paid me a most welcome visit and looked at my plants. She thought they looked too clean for mite but that it possibly was a soil deficiency and suggested repotting. Which I did.

It was then I decided to join the Society. Sending my check to Mr. Gottshall I took the opportunity to relate my troubles. He wrote back saying it sounded like mite but also suggested the possibility of soil deficiency or wrong exposure.

Upon receipt of my first issue of the African Violet Society Magazine, I avidly read every word in it and Eloise Dysart's article on Fungus intrigued me and decided her descriptions were comparable to the ailment of my violets. So End-O-Pest was purchased and all plants were dusted once a week. Some of the crowns softened up and where leaves had been removed new crowns began to form, but not much progress was noted and the feeling was apparent that the solution had not been reached.

Writing Mrs. Radtke to be placed in a Pigeon Group I again related my story and she too said it sounded like mite and suggested Sodium Selenate.

Then I wrote Mrs. Wright for back issues of the magazine and retold my tale of woe and asked if I could use N.N.O.R. and End-O-Pest together. You can readily see I was desperate and wrote everyone whose address was obtainable, as over sixty-five plants were now affected. I read everything I could lay my hands on and with the reading of each article the pictures and descriptions always appeared identical with the ailment of my plants, until I was so confused I did not know what to think. All the while inwardly hoping that I might be able to settle for something far less disastrous than the dreaded mite.

Mrs. Wright warned against the use of N.N.O.R. and End-O-Pest together and suggested that I wash the End-O-Pest off and spray with N.N.O.R. every ten days for three times. wait a month and repeat the schedule. Here again new difficulties presented themselves as no one locally had ever heard of N.N.O.R. Upon seeing an advertisement in the magazine I sent for some and started spraying.

In August, I contacted the office of our State Entomologist at Madison. He wasn't in, but I made an appointment to meet him the following week in Milwaukee. He just looked at my plants and said it was mite. All this time I wasn't satisfied that I had mite -- I wanted to see them for myself. He also told me the name of the best Research Director on African Violets in our State and where I could locate him. Upon calling long distance was informed that he had just left on a two week's vacation. So I patiently waited for another two weeks and called again. He graciously granted me audience the following day, August 31st. I packed up several plants and by this time my Ionantha was getting droopy and sick-looking so I took it along too.

Reaching my destination after a forty mile drive I was ushered into a large laboratory. Just looking at the plants my "Research Man" told me it definitely was mite. I felt sunk -- but would have to face it. The gentlemen examined all the plants under glass but couldn't locate any, as the mite does not like the daylight so usually hides deep in the crown or bud during the day but comes out to feed at night. (This is the reason that spraying at dusk or later is most beneficial).

Rather than tear one of my plants apart he got one of his own which was infested and opened a blossom and also cut a fresh bud in two with a razor blade. Here I saw my first mite. They were very plump and after being prodded became agitated and ran around furiously trying to find a place to hide. They had a whitish color and a very glassy appearance blending in with the plant tissue which makes them difficult to see. With the use of extra lights the mite in the larvae sac or acquiescent stage was pointed

out to me. This is one of the later stages of development and also the resting stage. The mite reaches this period of its growth within about seventy-two hours -- hatching, eating, then resting, then eating again until reaching adult stage. While in the acquiescent stage of development, they appear as a round glassy mound or dot. All this activity on a very minute inner portion of plant tissue -- many-many groups of glassy mounds and the adults dashing in all directions. The eggs couldn't be distinguished very well, but there was no question or doubt about the other stages as they were very discernible.

It was suggested that I continue spraying with N.N.O.R. (¼ teaspoon to 1 quart of warm water) as he said it is without a doubt one of our best sprays made. However, I was to change my spraying schedule of every ten days to not less than once every four days for four times, then waiting two or three weeks and repeat this operation until absolutely sure all the mites were killed. It is a slow process but with spraying every four days one gets those mites which were in the acquiescent stage during the last spraying. Also to spray just the crown, being sure to get solution in deep and around the tight centers.

As a last resort, one can use Sodium Selenate but, this plantsman doesn't like to use it because of its extremely toxic effect on all animal life -- it being known that Sodium Selenate remains in the soil for as long a time as seven years retaining its toxic effect. If such treated soil is carelessly thrown out in the garden its infective agents could show up in such top-grown vegetables as cabbage, broccoli, brussel sprouts and also tomatoes. He also pointed out that if it got in the pastures or into feeds fed to cattle the cows could absorb it and pass it on to people through their milk. So he says he does not like to recommend the use of this material to the public, as one can readily see its careless handling might introduce new virus infections on a large scale, as it is absorbed by the human system.

I felt much better after this enlightening afternoon spent in a very able plantsman's laboratory. I now definitely knew my plants had mite and what procedure to follow. It was a challenge and I accepted it as such.

The above outlined treatment was followed in full for one complete cycle. The plants responded beautifully. In some cases where the leaves were hard and bunched so tightly together that the spray solution could not penetrate I removed as many of the leaves as was necessary to facilitate new growth. The leaves and petioles will grow larger and longer but distortion of leaves is permanent and petioles retain their thickness, and if injury has been severe they will remain quite short.

After waiting but two weeks I followed the first spraying treatment with just one more spraying as we were leaving for a month's vacation to the West Coast the latter part of September.

All of my plants, 150 by this time, had to be moved to my mother's home in another town. Two trips by car were required plus a great deal of careful packing. Mother gave them splendid care, keeping them in a bedroom with one east and one south window. They were crowded, but she didn't overwater and upon my return I didn't recognize them. The plants were looking fine with twelve in bloom. The centers had grown out of many of them and the new growth was so extensive that it took me a couple of days to become acquainted with my little convalescents.

After bringing them home, they all received a good bath and were placed in east, south and west windows. All but nine plants have fully recovered. Being very busy the month of November catching up with work in my rather large perennial border, I sprayed occasionally but didn't follow the schedule and these stubborn ones still have mite. At this time, December 11th, they are getting a regular course of treatment and are beginning to show good results so have no fear of not being able to eliminate these unwanted guests I have been entertaining since June 1st.

The rest of the plants are beautiful. With a few exceptions, all distorted growth has been removed, new growth is progressing splendidly, fifteen varieties are in bloom with nineteen others in full bud. These are all plants started this year. At this time I have forty-four varieties and over 200 plants in various stages of growth. And I am happy.

The dreaded mite holds no terrors for me anymore!

MRS. ROETS

YOU ARE INVITED . . .

An invitation is here by extended to Mrs. Roets to write for us the final chapter of this determined battle against the troublesome Cyclamen mite. Because of the length of time the story has been in the process of getting published in the magazine it is believed that more valuable information may have been gathered in the keeping of her collection free of mite.

-Editor

Variegation is Still a Mystery

Annette Scully, Wyo.

The information used in this article has been recently obtained from Universities, amateur African violet growers, and Robin friends from different parts of the country, in hopes of obtaining the latest and most accurate information on "Variegation in African violets." My reason for inquiring about this information was to find out if it is a genetic fact that a variegated violet does not propagate true in the first clonal vegetative propagation, but does propagate variegated in the second clonal propagation.

Apparently very little research work has been done on variegation in African violets. It could be a very interesting field to work in if one has the time, patience, and is fortunate enough to have the true variegated stock to experiment with. I would like to thank all the people who were kind enough to furnish this material to make up this article, and I hope it will be as interesting to the members of the African Violet Society and their friends, as it has been for me to write it.

The coloring factors and structure of a normal green leaf are explained in the following paragraph. Taken from the book "Plant Magic", Author, James P. Haworth.

"The Plant's Food Supply. Green leaves are the food factories of plants. Since sunlight is so essential, plant leaves are nearly always very thin, so as to expose as much surface as possible to the light. The top and bottom of the leaf are composed of thin layers of waterproof cells called the epidermis, just like the skin around the stem. Top and bottom are identical except that there are numerous breathing pores or minute openings scattered throughout the bottom skin. These little pores have at their entrance, a pair of guard cells shaped like tiny new moons whose duty it is to regulate the size of orifice, so as to govern the amount of air that can enter or leave the little openings; by closing the pores in dry seasons, they can help prevent the loss of moisture. Between the two leaf surfaces all of the cells except those on the vein system are food factories. These factory cells contain chlorophyll, in the form of fifteen or more minute, round bodies called chloroplast in each cell. The green color of leaves is due to these pigmented bodies."

"The chloroplast is perhaps the most wonderful of all natural creations. At least, it is the most essential, for without it, there could be no plant, animal or human life on this planet. It is doubtful if life could survive more than a few months if this green substance should suddenly cease to exist. There is nothing else in nature and certainly nothing that man has invented that can take inert, inorganic gases from the air, moisture and sunlight, mix them and produce sugars."

In contrast to the above paragraph, the definition and explanation of variegation in species and varieties of plants except African violets is given below; and is taken from "Cyclopedia of American Horticulture", by L. H. Bailey. I would like to quote part of the letter received from the author in regard to using this information, "You must bear in mind that the article of variegation was written many years ago and should be compared with more up to date authorities."

"(Variegation). This term is usually applied to a class of variation, especially in leaf coloration, in which the leaves become striped, banded, spotted, blotched, etc., with yellow, white, red and various other colors in connection with the normal green of other portions of the leaves. In the case of yellow and white variegation the term albinism is sometimes used, especially when the plants are largely marked with white and yellow. True variegation may be distinguished from ordinary colorations, bleaching, chlorosis, etc., by the fact that the colored areas are usually quite sharply defined. They do not gradually blend into each other, but have definite boundaries. Cells in the variegated areas are found as a rule, to contain the same chlorophyll bodies (chromatophores) as the ordinary green cells of the plant. However, in the variegated parts the green color is not developed and the chromatophores are often smaller, or are somewhat swelled and vacuolate. In the case of chlorosis, due to the lack of iron, or yellowing due to the lack of light, a leaf will quickly develop its normal color if given the proper conditions. This is not the case, however, in variegated leaves. While the intensity of whatever color the chromatophores may have can be varied by light and food, a variegated cell can never be changed by these means to a normal cell. The white parts of variegated leaves often have in their cells, small

bodies which resemble the bodies of chloroplast but are unable to develop chlorophyll."

"The granules (chromatophores) appear to have lost entirely, in many cases, the power to make starch and sugar from the carbonic acid gas in the air. In practically all cases, however, when the chromatophores are not destroyed, they retain the power to convert sugar into starch and they thus store up starch in their tissues from the sugar manufactured by the healthy cells of the leaf."

"White or albino variegation is, of course, due to a lack of any coloring in the chromatophores, and sometimes to the entire absence of these bodies. The cells seem to have lost completely the power of making chlorophyll. These albicant variegations are to be looked upon as the more extreme forms of variegation, and usually arise through a feeble or atrophied condition of the plant. Seedlings raised from parents both of which are variegated in this way are usually weak. High feeding and favorable conditions of growth, while they will not cause a variegated plant to return to its normal condition, will often stimulate the development of a green sheet that takes most of the nourishment, and thus causes the starvation and disappearance of the albicant parts."

"Variegated plants or parts of plants are usually of slower growth and smaller than green plants of the same variety or the green parts of the same plant."

Many African Violet Growers have informed me it is almost impossible to root a variegated leaf. "If you are successful in rooting one, the resulting plantlets will be totally green." Others wrote and said, "Root a variegated leaf with a petiole an inch long, more or less; and the little plants appearing at the base of the petiole will be green. When these small plants are large enough to remove leaves, root them and the resulting plantlets, or second generation offsprings, will be variegated." One of the questions to the people I wrote to was why a variegated African violet skips its variegation in the first generation, and then appears in the propagation of the second generation. I will quote some of the answers I received.

Courtesy of E. B. Risley, University of New Hampshire. "One cannot correctly refer to new plants propagated vegetatively from leaf cuttings as being a new or second generation. New generations can come about only through the production and germination of seeds by a plant. The essential difference is that the new plants developed from cuttings must have the same genetic or chromosome makeup as the parent plant. We call the parent plant plus all of its vegetative offsprings a clon, and no normal variations will occur in such a group of plants. By contrast, every new plant from a seed will be different from the parent plant, because it contains hereditary elements from both parents. Therefore, when you speak of the case where small green plants have

sprung from variegated leaves vegetatively and in turn variegated plants developed vegetatively from the green ones in the second clonal propagation, such an occurrence absolutely cannot be a case of a genetic factor for variegation, skipping generations; the green plant in this case, if given different cultural treatment would undoubtedly have displayed some degree of variegation. We have the same condition in Geranium variety (Beckwith Pride), and in both the white & green and white & red variegated Wandering Jew (Tradescantia Fluminensis). With these plants, the relative size of the white areas on the leaves increases in direct proportion to the degree of starvation to which the plant is submitted. A cutting taken from a nearly-white plant will produce all green leaves on the new plants, and this plant will stay nearly all green until it is allowed to become pot bound or starved somewhat. One further point to bring out is that this does not mean that any green-leaved African violet can be made to have variegations just by starving it . . . Only those individuals or clons having the proper genetic makeup will do this. All the plants developed from a variegated leaf plant by leaf cutting will have variegated leaves actually or potentially."

Courtesy of Arthur Bing, Assistant Professor at Cornell University. "If the condition exists as you describe it, there is no ready explanation. With only a few plants the results you describe can occur by chance alone, but if any number of plants were involved there is no genetical explanation as yet. If the variegations were caused by a virus, it would be possible to get virus free, green plants, which were reinfected in the next clonal generation. As the violets are asexually reproduced, a few changes will show up here and there, but the changes in (Blue Girl) are as yet unexplainable."

Courtesy of Dr. Louis Otto Kunkel, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. "To begin with, I would like to say that I have observed only one kind of variegation in African violets. The variegation with which I am familiar consists in a great variety of chlorotic or necrotic ringspot-type markings on the leaves and petioles. I have not seen or experimented with the variety Blue Girl. As you no doubt know, many different ringspot diseases of plants are caused by viruses and can be transmitted from plant to plant by rubbing juice from leaves of diseased plants over the leaves of healthy plants. It was through the great similarity in the

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Photo by Ross Hahn

Plant from the collection of Mrs. Hahn

Do You REMEMBER?

Florence Foltz, Pa.

Do you remember the actual beginning of the mess your house is in right now, or was in just before your greenhouse was completed? And do you sometimes wonder what it would be like to have nothing to do but the routine housework which used to seem like a big job? I'm sure we all have those moments, but I wonder how many would actually be happy if they were suddenly carried back to the days when they weren't sure if the name of that plant, which was a gift from a Capsule Sister, was AFRICAN violet or MEXICAN violet. That was the plant that maybe for days was kept submerged in so much water that the roots developed fins. It was the plant that on other occasions was dry for such long periods that it thought you had moved to the desert. But it grew, and bloomed all the time. At that time you weren't too pleased with its longevity, - because you didn't care for house plants; you much preferred to raise your flowers outside.

Then, after five years or more, during which time you kept the violet, African or Mexican, you didn't much care which, because it wouldn't die, do you remember reading that magazine article and learning that there was more than one variety of AFRICAN violet? Perhaps you would like to forget that you wrote to the author of the article and asked where you might purchase a pink violet.

In quick succession there was the acquisition of numerous price lists, and a blank to join the newly formed National African Violet Society. Do you remember how thrilled you were with that first membership card, and how excited you were a few weeks later when the first copy of the Magazine arrived? The "Homing Pigeon" department aroused your curiosity and after several months you mustered up the courage to write to Elsie Freed and ask what it was all about. In about six weeks you found out, - you were in a pigeon with nine other ladies from all over the United States, and though you didn't realize it then, it was the beginning of many lovely friendships.

In the first Pigeon remember how surprised you were to learn that there were nearly 100 named varieties and how pleased you were that you had one variety which none of the others had? (It later turned out to be a variety that had "forty-leven" duplicates.) Being possessed of a big heart you offered to trade leaves, and so it went. Before long your 19 varieties had become 45, and you knew the source of every leaf. "This one came from Michigan, that from Tennessee, and this plant came all the way from Wyoming without a single broken leaf", were statements made quite as frequently as, "Good morning, how are you today?"

After that, things in your "Violet Life" happened so fast it was hard to remember them all, but could you ever forget the time your first seedlings bloomed? They were truly super, and looked better to you than any plants you had seen in your travels; but -- you suddenly remembered you have never traveled very far. So you decided to test them on your small public by placing them among named varieties on your windows. Remember the new hat that replaced the too small old one, after one customer after another would point out a seedling with, "That one is different!"

It has been the same story for many of us: - long hours of work mixing soil, scrubbing pots, dividing plants, separating babies and cleaning up the resultant mess (which inevitably happens at our house).

Do you envy the woman who has time to get dressed up and go down town every afternoon? Do you miss having a perennially clean house? Would you, if it were possible, go back to the old life without violets and the friends they have brought you? Would I? - - - - - - - I'll keep my violets.

YOUR INVITATION TO DAYTON

The Dayton Ohio and the Richmond, Indiana Societies wish to extend to all members of the African Violet Society of America a cordial invitation to attend the 1951 Meeting to be held April 26, 27, and 28, with headquarters in the Dayton Biltmore Hotel. There will be plenty of African violets on display, excellent speakers on violet problems, delicious food, and a good time for everyone.

Nelle Berst, Convention Chairman
Mary Mutchner, Asst. Chairman
434 Williams Street
Dayton 7, Ohio

(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

THE HOMING PIGEON SPEAKS

So what!! If one or two die--now and then--
Just get some leaves and try again.
Then write to us and let us know,
Just what you've done to make them grow.

Clara Ley, Pa., Unit 63

NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS IN WHICH AFRICAN VIOLETS CAN PLAY A BIG PART

If any of you have a group of Cub Scouts -- start them on a project of raising African violets. The first thing the boys do when they meet -- is to see if their leaf has shown any more growth and which has grown the most. Gave them each leaves of Blue Boy --- lots of fun.

Mrs. D. R. Allard, Calif., Unit 84

I have started a kind of project among the children who live in my neighborhood. I have given each of them a young plant (in a painted can). They are all very much interested in them and are having great success.

Irene Russell, N. C., Unit 46

A LITTLE BIT OF THIS AND A LITTLE BIT OF THAT!

½ oz. of vinegar to 1 gal. of water used every six weeks is good to counteract the affects of alkaline water. Plants will

VIOLET BERRY

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

show increased vigor and better color -- also more blossoms.

Katherine Rhodes, Ohio, Unit 23

If I run short of rain water -- this is what I do: to each 4 gallons of tap water add 1 oz. of Sal Soda and fill a large wash tub. Then let stand a week, and all the hardness is taken out of it.

Inez Kelley, Mich., Unit 70

I put my two white violets in the sun keeping a close watch on them and right away they started new leaves in the crown, and one has been blooming for three weeks. Had not bloomed since last February and had rested all summer.

Belle Anderton, Tenn., Unit 68

I made pans of tin foil to set pots in on the shelf instead of using pans.

Lucile Paton, Miss., Unit 64

I made a little greenhouse of 6" x 8" window panes, fastened together with adhesive tape. I set it in a pan in a south window. I put several small plants that would not grow in this greenhouse. Now they are doing fine.

Edith Sargeant, Ohio, Unit 64

When I find one of my plants getting "wobbly", I take it out of the soil, carefully washing all soil from the roots with warm water. If there are no long, healthy looking roots, I take off several lower leaves and put it a small glass bowl of water, leaving until the bowl gets a good supply of roots in it. If there are several long ones but not enough to really hold the plant steady, I still take off several leaves but put it in a new soil mixture, making an opening in soil in center which I fill in with vermiculite. By taking off a number of leaves it balances the fewer roots. I have two rooting that way at present.

Helen McMahon, Ohio, Unit 61

I have found that, if you place a leaf in water for about four days and let it draw the water up into the petiole, then shift it to vermiculite, with the leaf covered by a glass, it will remain crisp and root very quickly.

Alicia Stith, Ky. Unit 68

It isn't a particular light or the pot, ('tho I prefer clay ones), it isn't a certain

recipe for soil mixture or type of fertilizer -- but just a good combination of these -- no one alone works miracles. A plant can take lots of hot sun if it is accustomed to it and not become sunburned, but its leaves will look quite coarse although it blooms heavily. My prettiest plants are getting no direct sun and they are blooming nicely. Plants bloom most quickly in small pots for me -- I then shift them to larger ones and can almost see them grow as they bloom. From several experiences, I think that a little shock is sometimes good for plants and does produce bloom. My most interesting experience -- after a year of experimenting, I stuck a Sapphire plant into the refrigerator for 4 min., forgot it for more than 6 minutes! It soon began to bloom. One morning I went out to greet my violets first thing and see if anything new had developed -- I picked up Sapphire to marvel at her beauty and in my sleepy state let her fall about 5 feet onto a concrete floor just smashing the pot. Luckily it was bone dry and only broke one leaf, slightly damaging another. I quickly repotted it so no one could chide me for my awkwardness. That has been about six weeks ago, and now it is blooming profusely and the leaves have grown to enormity.

Mr. Howard J. Morrell, Tenn., Unit 99

It is possible you might be interested in an experiment I made on some small violets that turned a sickly white but seemed to be determined to grow a little and stay alive. I felt so bad thinking of the effort they were making that I went to the florist here and found only a very young man working in the greenhouse. Asking him about what to do -- he told me that he had some sulphate of iron and to use 1 teaspoon to a quart of water, but not how often to use it. So I used it once a week and not only did the plants perk up but the new leaves were quite green and also the old white leaves in many cases turned green too. And now most of the plants treated are in bud and doing well.

Vera D. Hardman, Wyo., Unit 4

Could you persuade those people introducing the new Species of African violets to give us the key to the pronunciation of each? We're not all language experts.

Miss Anna Rehm, Ohio, Unit 10

A friend removed the fungi formation on the outside of the pots by mixing one part clorox and fifty parts water and stood the pot in this solution up to the rim for 10 min.

Esther Schadewald, Pa., Unit 3

GLADYS CANNER

Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

If you wish to join a group, or if you wish to withdraw from one, please communicate with Mrs. Canner.

If you have a leaf that seems to be rotting, sprinkle some fleur sulphur on it and it will heal the scar and you won't lose the leaf. Also it has been tried -- to make a leaf do double duty, cut down the middle of center rib and sprinkle with sulphur so all fresh cuts will completely heal and both will propagate nicely for you.

Phyllis Ferrall, Mich., Unit 3

A newer method I have worked out for labeling rooting leaves. I found it so easy to get labels mixed or lost, with a constant increase in plants I could not identify until in bloom -- a great nuisance. I use vermiculite in chicken feeder pans (after applying liquid solder to make the corners watertight). I stretch a stout cord from end to end of pan and tie it in an upper hole. Then with strips of adhesive tape I put across the pan from side to side, eleven strips (pans are 36 inches long). This divides each pan into 24 squares. I insert a leaf in each square and stick a split wooden label naming the variety in each square. This gives every leaf plenty of room and I have not yet had a label misplaced.

Margaret Darr, Tenn., Unit 10

Do not bring cut flowers in from outside and place near African violets. Do not handle violets after handling delphinium or begonias or geraniums, as you might carry cyclamen mite from them. Gasses will cause bud drop. It's the ethelene in the gas that does the harm—so 'tis said. A bowl of apples which have started to rot, set near a bouquet of flowers will cause the flowers to wilt in a short time. The ethelene gas passed from the apples does the harm. This might be a good thing to remember in our homes where we have African Violets.

Betha Human, N. Y., Unit 66

Use NNOR in water when watering — helps keep down springtails.

Mrs. Ray Guilfoyle, Mich., Unit 44

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Notes from the . . .
GOLDEN STATE

Carolyn K. Rector, Calif.

If you have thought of California mostly as the source of movies and scandals, you should have come with us as we prowled among the African violet fanciers. We found so many fine new California violets that we cannot write about them all, but we will mention a few we found very attractive.

We took our camera to the home of Mrs. Clarissa Harris, but the smog was so bad that day our picture turned out too poor to print. However, it did not prevent our admiring her new violet, Marine Supreme. Picture to yourself a gorgeous plant, with large plushy leaves of a medium dark green, and simply enormous blue velvet flowers, glistening with diamond dust! And it isn't "just like Mrs. Boles" either. We have Mrs. Boles, ourselves, and this is quite different, a true supreme, and we predict that it will cause a sensation wherever it is shown.

An "almost" neighbor of ours, Mrs. Rubie Sharon of Redondo, has come up with a plant which made us sit up and beg for a leaf. A beautiful violet of upright growth, and leaves of medium green, of a peculiar shape, and a lovely blossom. which, for want of a better word, we decided to call a watermelon pink. It is free-blooming, and we feel sure it will be very popular as soon as it is better known.

Did you know that the sensational Lady Geneva originated in California? It really is a honey, and we are not being paid for saying so, either. We prize it as one of the finest in our collection.

Something very new is Jo-Li-An, grown by Mrs. Mary Morter of Lomita. Quite different from anything else we have seen so far. A very compact-growing plant, which forms a perfect rosette, and so far has not produced a single sucker to annoy the grower, with medium green leaves, and clear blue flowers. But listen to this: every flower has six petals, all the same size and perfectly round. At first the flower was a puzzle, — "What makes it look so odd?" we said, and then it dawned on us that not a single flower had any stamens. This complete absence of stamens gives it a very distinctive appearance.

We have not been able to find out much about Wonder Star, except that it is said to have originated in California. When it was introduced last spring it immediately became very popular. The light violet flowers are two-toned, but unlike most Bi-colors, the two tones appear in all five petals, in a ray effect.

Morning Star is somewhat the same type, but in two shades of medium light blue. The ray effect however, is more pronounced in some flowers than in others, and varies somewhat according to the light in which it is grown.

At the August 1949 show in Long Beach, Mr. Harvey Cox showed Ida Blue,

Mrs. Rector and "Jo-li-an"

Officers of Los Angeles Club .

The collection of

Mrs. Emily Moorefield of Long Beach

which attracted a great deal of attention. But we particularly like his Gorgeous Gal, which we think is very well-named, with "Girl" leaves and gorgeous blooms. Mr. Cox's seedling, Jack Frost, immediately caused us to be guilty of the sin of covetousness! An ethereal looking little dwarf, a perfect rosette type, with small leaves of pale grey green, heavily frosted to a silvery effect, with white backs and pink stems. We have never seen anything like it.

A little farther north of us we have an enthusiastic violet fan, Mrs. Constance Hansen of Lafayette. She has produced quite a few new varieties. For instance, Forgetmenot, a rosette type, with light green leaves and flowers a shade lighter than Blue Eyes. This is a very individual and popular plant.

Also her California Periwinkle, with lovely big dark velvet leaves, and large clear blue flowers.

Moonbeam is a white violet, and is quite different from White Lady, with long heart-shaped leaves, and from six to nine flowers on a stem.

Maroon Brocade is a bicolor in two shades of red violet, with medium green leaves on rather long stems.

We like Mrs. Hansen's Larkspur, new double, in a lovely shade of blue violet, with very short stems. The leaves grow in a close rosette, and the flowers form a crown of bloom just above them.

Her Rosebud is also a double, red-violet in color, and often has extra inner petals in the flower. It is quite new and distinctive.

Newest of all is her Blue Rosette, very beautiful and distinctive flower, large, very double, medium blue. The foliage is also quite different, with long, shiny, pointed leaves.

There are others, but we have mentioned enough, we think, to prove our point!

Mrs. Harris Marine a product of cross pollination

MRS. ST. JOHN ATTENDS . . .

The Convention

R.E.MEMBERTHIS

(This is for fun, too — Editor)

Mrs. St. John was in a frenzied dither. Two weeks hence she was to depart for the Annual Convention of the African Violet Society of America, Incorporated. She had existed solely for the past year in anticipation of this one sublime event. Attend it she would, even if she had to walk! To avoid this drastic action she decided to do something to relieve the burden on the family purse. "What would it be?"

"Yes, a pre-Mother's Day violet sale would be just the thing." After all, she kept telling herself, "Now was the time to turn them into cash . . . " This idea was agreed to by The Ardent Collector (who by now was such a bosom friend of the family that she was identified as Mrs. Constant Leech). This latter lady offered to assist with the sale.

Unfortunately, Mrs. St. John did not do as well with the venture as was possible, for Mrs. Leech arrived bright and early the day of the sale with 7 packing boxes crammed full of small plants of her own in 2 inch pots. "I didn't see any sense in my spending money to advertise after you had spent yours, so I brought my plants along in case you should run out."

Also unfortunately, Mrs. St. John insisted on being completely honest, but as her helper had no such qualms, she naturally had "just one small plant" of any new and rare variety inquired for. Her method was a bit complicated, but it worked beautifully on all the prospects who wanted to get the "jump on her neighbor". Whenever a variety was called for, Constant Leech consulted a little black book, remarked "Oh, yes. Number 16", and immediately scanned the rims of her pots for the desired number. There being no labels and, the fact that the plants were so very small, it was quite possible to sell-off all her Neptunes for anything requiring dark foliage, the Mentor Boys for anything requiring light foliage; and Orchid Beauties for anything requiring, in the future, red or orchid blossoms. Of course there was always the old standby to fall back upon . . . "My goodness, your plant must have sported!"

Be all this as it may - the time for departure was arriving. Mrs. Meeker had phoned the previous evening to advise that " 'deed I'm not going away and leave all this good Mother's Day business behind. I'm going to stay right here and keep a finger in the pie." Mrs. St. John had just finished packing her bag and went to get the large hatbox that was to be the receptacle for the huge and lovely seedling that she was taking to exhibit and introduce. The telephone rang. It was Mr. Leech to advise that most unfortunately(?) Constant had just fallen down the steps and may have broken her left leg. Consequently she would be unable to accompany Mrs. St. John to Philadelphia . . . "Would Mrs. St. John carry Mrs. Leech's seedlings to the exhibit for her? She had only 8 large plants. No? Well how ungrateful after all Constant Leech had done for her!"

Mrs. St. John shed a tear, out of propriety, heaved a sigh, out of relief and brought the hatbox. The beauteous seedling, measuring 18 inches across, could just be wedged into the box with reams of tissue around the pot to keep it from shifting. A taxi was called and Mrs. St. John was off to make her appearance at the Annual Convention.

The trip would have been uneventful, except that somewhere along the line, Ima Chatterton boarded the train and, catching sight of Mrs. St. John, bored her with discourses on how many new varieties she

had, the fact that all her plants had sported; and everything she had seen, or expected to see, turned out to be exactly like one of her own seedlings (six of which were in an orange crate and deposited in the baggage compartment at the rear of the coach).

Arriving at the hotel Mrs. St. John permitted the porter to take her bag, but, nursing the seedling on her lap for the entire trip she did not intend to risk the precious thing to the carelessness of such nonchalant and uneducated hands as porters generally possess. Wrapping her arms tenderly around the hatbox she proceeded to mount the steps to the lobby in the wake of the "careless" porter. Mrs. St. John missed the top step - Mrs. St. John landed kerplunk, flat on top of the box! The pot hurt her midriff, the fall hurt her pride, and her landing hurt the plant beyond recognition . . .

"Madam!" the porter shouted in alarm.

"It's quite alright", she replied with effort between gasps to regain her breath knocked out due to violent contact with the flower pot. "I have a reservation." However, the dear soul was distraught. She registered and beat a hasty retreat to her assigned room in an endeavor to see if any leaves still contained in the squashed box could be salvaged.

Safely in her room, Mrs. St. John surveyed the wreckage of her plant. It was a total loss. Valiantly she decided it must not spoil her trip . . . She must hurry and register! Now where was her membership card? Looking frantically thru her overstuffed handbag, she could not find her card - all the while re-reading in her mind a recent letter from Mr. Gottshall in which he had cautioned her not to fail to bring her membership card, as it was necessary for registering.

Thank heavens, there it was! The hot and cold chills subsided as she clutched it in her hand. However could she have been so forgetful!

Going up on the elevator, Mrs. St. John met several pleasant people, Mrs. E. M. Smelser, Mrs. Nelle Fry, Mrs. Edwin Anderson, and Mrs. John Stilwell. She inquired if any of them had seen Floyd Johnson. She was most anxious to see him. They had not seen Floyd Johnson but thought surely he would be there. She might, they suggested inquire at the registration desk when she registered.

Well, registration wasn't going to be so bad after all. Shouldn't take over a few minutes, thought Mrs. St. John. That is, if the tall light haired man ever stopped talking to Mrs. Craig. Presenting her membership card to Mrs. Filing at the desk, she smiled and said, "I wish to register for the meeting, here is my membership card. Mr. Gottshall said it would be required."

Conversation began to penetrate her foggy thoughts as she was busy planning what she would do, whom she wanted to meet, and their names. She must not forget names! Conversation like this . . . "but you know I HAVE a membership card . . . you know I must have one someplace." The tall blonde man was searching thru his pockets all the while he talked. He could not find his membership card. Now wasn't that too bad as Mr. Gottshall had told her a membership card was necessary. As he turned she recognized him-- Of all people — Mr. Gottshall! Mrs. St. John moved toward him saying, "Mr. Gottshall, I am Mrs. St. John--" just as Ima Chatterton raced off the elevator pushed her aside and introduced herself to Warren Gottshall.

The dining room doors were opening. "The Pigeon" had plans for a very good table in front of the speakers platform, and some of them made a dash for it - Unfortunately some noisy bunch from Tennessee beat them to the punch. It is also needless to say that there was a contest for that particular table during the remainder of the convention. The Tennessee crew always won out . . . even if one or two speedier members had to remove their shoes and lie down on four or five chairs until the rest of their party arrived.

Mrs. St. John and the other Pigeon members settled down to some serious rubber-necking, while the poor waiter tried not to drop EVERYTHING into their laps. "There is Mrs. Schadewald and Our President — Mary Blackburn and Henry Peterson. Does anyone know if Ruth Yoars, Dalene Rhodes or Clarissa Harris is here?" This continued for a full 10 minutes as all squirmed from side to side in their chairs, and a few stood up, to see just who all was there . . . while going thru such comments as, "Mr. Edens looks well this year!" "Good heavens look at that hat! It's the same big black one she has worn for the past three years." "Oh, my! look at all the men." "Is that Arthur Chard?" "Look there goes one of the men carrying his plate to another table." "My, isn't Dr. Seeley cute!"

Mrs. St. John was watching with interest the people seated at the "head table" and wondering if any of them would remember her from the last convention - or notice her. She was thrilled - Mrs. Radtke smiled and nodded. Her pleasant reactions were brought to a very abrupt end by a piercing shriek from someone

at her table -- "My cow! Raw Hamburgers! Take it AWAY!" The waiter came rushing. It seemed everyone in the room craned their necks in her direction, so Mrs. St. John pretended she had dropped her napkin and crawled under the table to look for it - -

At the table left to right, Mrs. John Slivka reading program, Mrs. Hugh Mullarky, back to artist, Ima Chatterton wearing glasses, Mrs. R. I. Peyre-Ferry holding tea cup, and Mrs. St. John under the table . . .

there she remained until the hubbub had subsided. Mrs. St. John was disconcerted. She pushed her food from one side of the plate to the other and afterwards could not remember whether she had eaten anything or not. All through Dr. Seeley's talk and the remainder of the program someone at her table kept muttering - in a loud whisper, "Imagine, three bucks for raw hamburgers!"

Finally the announcement was made that the exhibit was open, and Mrs. St. John joined in the rush. She had been informed that the "Fringettes" would be on sale, but by the time she found the booth, there were already fifty people gathered in front of it. From the groans emanating from the few up front she knew she had been misinformed. Nevertheless she heard someone remark that they were on display. At least she could fight it out and get a good look at them. The time was longer than she had anticipated, so she drifted over to other displays. The plants of the West End Nursery (with Mrs. Jennie Spoutz in attendance) set her mouth watering. "Look at that white and purple bloom over there." (At a later time someone asked her what type foliage was under the bloom and for the life of her she did not know. All she could remember was that one single blossom.)

She also fell in love with Tinari's America, and their Helen Wilson was unusually interesting, though personally, she did not care for Doubles - even if they did have a frilly "girl" type foliage. "My, Oh My, but did they have some nice things . . ."

Then there was dear, little Mrs. Brown tucked away in such a dark corner - with so many wonderful, so many different varieties on display. She caught sight of Mr. Carter and asked him where the seedlings were being shown. Subconsciously, Mrs. St. John was disappointed. "How do they expect a body to see them, let alone study the new things on this dark side of the room? Why don't they pull the drapes? Oh, the First Place plant is called Love Birds. What a nice leaf has Rippling Blue." She drifted back to see if she could get a glimpse at the Fringettes and ended up with another look at America.

Mr. Edens was saying to Mr. Tinari, "What in the world is THAT?" Mr. Tinari replied, "Our America." "And why did you not enter it in the seedling exhibit?" "We did." "Well it isn't there now." Mr. Tinari took Mr. Edens to prove that it was. Mrs. St. John trailed close behind to hear the remainder of the conversation. Mr. Tinari pointed to a plant on the end of the table. Mr. Edens said, "I don't believe it." Whereupon, Mr. Tinari carried the plant to an undraped window. Mr. Edens said nothing for a full three minutes, then his only comment was, "You have a better plant of it in your own exhibit."

"Dear me, look at the time" Mrs. St. John thought, "and I haven't seen everything. I must run and dress for the Banquet. I do hope that the exhibit will be open later on." She made a rush for her room, quickly took a shower, threw herself across the bed with her aching feet toward the window. Mrs. St. John was playing out, but, after a moment's rest she arose, pulled the prettiest of the five dresses she had brought with her over her head, brushed her hair, painted on a new face, crushed on her new Easter bonnet - all over violets, caught up her box of leaves and plants she had brought for friends, and lastly slipped into a fresh pair of shoes. She tripped daintily to the elevator.

Mrs. St. John spoke to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lyke as she entered the elevator. They too were going up to the meeting. The elevator stopped at the 5th floor - Mrs. Wright entered, smiled, and spoke with Mrs. St. John. Then noting badges on the other two passengers said, "My name is Alma Wright", as she looked at the writing

(Drawing by Arthur Chard.)

. . . and now before introducing the speaker I would like to say a FEW words - - ??

The letter bearing the earliest postmark correctly identifying the people in the above cartoon will be given a one year's subscription to the African Violet Magazine. - - Editor.

on Mr. Lyke's badge. Turning to the lady she said, " Do you know each other?" Stopping her short in the would-be introduction, Larry Lyke said, "Well, we should, she is my wife--." Dropping not a stitch in her chatter, Mrs. Wright took up another subject.

Ima Chatterton was waving to Mrs. St. John from the second best table in the room. "Darling, we saved you a chair," she screamed. "Do hurry, and did you bring my Fantasy?"

Ima was disgruntled again. Mrs. St. John had refused to admit to herself that the horrible screech at the luncheon had belonged to Ima, but there was no denying it now as she loudly exclaimed, "My cow! bean soup with peas."

Trying to be oblivious of the commotion this time, Mrs. St. John gazed about the room. "There goes that woman with the pencil and pad," she thought. "Wonder what she's doing?" Ima settled the question for her by remarking "See the old girl over there with the pencil and pad? Claims she's doing interviews for the magazine. Thinks she's doing a Helen Van Pelt Wilson act - since I hear that dear is sick in the hospital. Claims she is on the staff of the magazine. Humph! Anyway she asked my opinion of the convention, and you can bet I gave her an earful - just in case she might be who she says she is."

"My dear," Mrs. St. John exclaimed, "Don't you know who she is?" But she had no takers as the folks at the speakers table were being introduced. "Oh my!" she thought, " Mr. Free, Mr. Frese, Mr. Winchester, Mrs. Newnham - so many famous editors and publishers . . . we are certainly coming up in the world."

During the second course, Ima Chatterton again split the air with "My cow! fried chicken, and I just spent one full hour giving myself a new manicure. Tell that cute waiter with the curly hair over there to come here and bring me some fish."

Ignoring the hubbub of conversation, Mrs. St. John wondered if it would be the best idea to leave a note at the desk for Floyd Johnson. She had been trying to get to see him all afternoon and could never find him. Possibly, if she were very alert she could detain him for just a moment if she was quick at the end of the meeting. She must not fail tonight!

Early in the morning, Mrs. St. John caught the train for Bethayres. Anne and Frank were wonderful — their greenhouses were simply perfection. She had bought more than she should she thought, as she wound her way perilously thru the maze of tables at the luncheon meeting. Ima was waving to her and screeching too loudly, "Hurry! Hurry!" She had stayed longer than she should, but it was so hard to leave — they were such lovely people. Everyone was looking at her. Waves of embarrassment engulfed her. She twitched a little nervously as she squeezed through the tables and balanced the enormous box of plants she carried. Struggling the full length of the dining room, Mrs. St. John finally reached the table in time to hear her friend say, "Well I'll bet a purty she hasn't bought anything for anyone but herself!" Ima Chatterton snatched the box and opened it in a flash. "Well, here is a nice white one with a large sucker. I will just take it! No need for me to go to Tinari's. I always did like a good white. What else did you get?" Grasping her box firmly, Mrs. St. John took it from Ima's hands and pushed it under the table in an embarrassed silence.

The meeting was nearly over, Mrs. St. John realized. If she wanted to see the Fringettes, she had better rush. But the Fringettes were gone and the room was empty . . . she was most disappointed! Well, maybe now she could find Floyd Johnson. Walking rapidly from room to room she began to taste the dregs of defeat. Two of her dearest ambitions were not realized. She had wanted so to see the Fringettes and . . . where in the world was Floyd Johnson???

"TRI-COLOR"

AFRICAN VIOLET JARDINIERE

BEAUTIFUL SOLID BRASS SELF-IRRIGATING - - PLANTS REQUIRE WATERING ONLY ONCE A WEEK FROM THE BOTTOM TROUGH. ELIMINATES ALL DAILY WATERING.

ORNAMENTAL - - ATTRACTIVE

WILL NOT MAR FURNITURE

SIZE 5 INCHES HIGH. LOVELY FLARED TOP ABOUT 5 INCHES WIDE

Simply place clay pot in jardiniere and your violets will keep healthy and blooming. You will be pleased with the gratifying results.

WONDERFUL AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE AFRICAN VIOLETS. SOMETHING BRAND NEW AND ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FOR YOUR GIFTS THIS YEAR.

PRICE ONLY $3.50 POSTPAID. SPECIAL PRICES TO DEALERS FOR QUANTITIES FOR RE-SALE.

ORDER TODAY

Send Check or Money Order To:

BOX 8511 WESTHAMPTON STATION

TRI-COLOR

RICHMOND 26, VIRGINIA

SAINTPAULIAS

Gain their rightful place in a National Flower and Garden Show

Washington, D. C. recently played host to the 26th National Flower and Garden Show conducted by the Society of American Florists and Ornamental Horticulturists. The show transformed the National Guard Armory into over two acres of beautiful gardens and provided our Capitol with its first flower show of such magnitude. It also honored the Metropolitan African Violet Club by extending to them the first invitation to exhibit our favorite houseplant. Never before had Saintpaulias been exhibited at a flower show of this size by invitation, or with appreciation (outside of those appearing in commercial exhibits). It is to be remembered that the shows conducted by the above Society were the original parents of the great local shows (New York, Philadelphia, etc.) that eventually developed as a result of their having, at one time or another, been staged in these respective cities.

African violets are beginning to take their just place in general flower exhibits and are no longer mere subjects for specialized and exclusively saintpaulia shows. This means that the beauty, fame and popularity of African violets is now being displayed to a greater number of plant lovers; that their future is assured and will spread with greater rapidity across the nation. Chas. Hahn & Son (originators of Hahn's self branching Ivy) had, in their beautiful exhibit a bed comprised of at least five hundred Lady Genevas and duPont Blues, a "sight to behold." Another section of the show was given over to 100 square foot plots for the purpose of bedding single plant species. One of these plots (planted by Goebel's Greenhouses) was devoted to many varieties of African violets. Unfortunately, this display was placed next to one of azaleas and the brilliant hues of these latter plants tended to dull the shades of saintpaulias exhibited. Not too unfortunate, however, when you later learn that both the above greenhouse and Behnke Nurseries (also with a commercial booth at the show) were practically cleaned out of plants in the few weeks following the show. In addition to these exhibits, and the display of the Metropolitan African Violet Club, saintpaulia blooms were occasionally found in the floral arrangements of the local garden clubs.

Being situated adjacent to the wonderful garden display of Jackson & Perkins with its hundreds of rose bushes, including a predominance of the floribunda Fashion, the Metropolitan African Violet Club exhibit had one of the choice spots in the show. In addition, the huge bowl of our First Lady's flowers (Mrs. Harry Truman)

Hahn Exhibit

Green and white ivy plants form the ivy pattern. (The white is to be released soon.) Lady Geneva, is in the lower right hand corner. Light Blue duPonts in the lower left hand corner.

Mrs. Hoy at left Mrs. Husted on the right of the exhibit,

Below part of the Jackson Perkins exhibit.

was directly in front of the booth. There was not only the advantage of drawing the attention of the thousands of rose lovers but, also all the garden club members and enthusiasts, as these latter clubs had their gardens and rooms for floral arrangements on the opposite side of the aisle.

The show was no "small time" affair, for it was open to the public from March 23rd to, and including the 29th and had over 100,000 visitors, — over 82,000 paid admittances and some 20,000 school children and pass holders who were admitted free. The Metropolitan Club members, who stood four hour shifts at the show, felt that at least ninety percent of the attendance stopped by their booth and asked an average of a dozen questions each.

It had been the original intention of the Show Committee, when extending the invitation, that the African violet display would be judged. The club, however, through its President and Show Chairman, Mrs. Martha Husted, vetoed this plan. They decided more could be accomplished toward advertising saintpaulias and the African Violet Society of America, Inc. if no judging were done as this would be a means of placing emphasis on a very few prize winning varieties. Their chief aim was to plug African violets as a whole instead of one or two varieties. On the other hand, had the plants been judged, they would have had to remain on display for the entire week of the show. The fact that African violets quite frequently drop their bloom, due to moving them into conditions unlike those to which they were grown in the individual homes, also contributed toward the elimination of judging. As it was, the plants could be, and frequently were, changed as soon as they appeared to go out of condition. This, of course, made for a fresh appearing, as well as a changing, display and more varieties could be eventually displayed than would have been possible in the space allotted if the exhibit had remained unchanged. Approximately seventy five varieties were on display each day.

Regardless of the club's good intentions, several varieties still drew the attention of the visitors. Leading all the varieties exhibited were the inquiries for

the identification of Rosalie (which had the advantageous position of a front corner of one of the side tables), followed closely by Mentor Boy and Purple Prince (for the lovely deep purple of their blooms). Lady Constance (probably a supreme type of Purple Prince) drew its due attention during its brief appearance, and Mrs. Husted's Heart's Desire topped all inquiries on the day on which it was exhibited.

Part of the reception given the Metropolitan African Violet Club exhibit was due to the efforts of the local newspapers, many of which ran feature articles on the plants, the club's president, and activities of the club - its meetings, plans and speakers. Part was due to the fact that the club had sponsored two of its own shows previously, had an educational display in a federated garden club show and had joined with the National Bird Club to stage a combined African violet and bird show. As a consequence, the club's name and plants were well known around the metropolitan area of Washington. Also, the club put on a personal advertising campaign, as it sold 800 advance tickets for the show.

The invitation to participate in the show was received on January the 22nd and gave the club but two months to prepare for the show. One of Washington's leading furniture stores was contacted and readily agreed to lend their assistance by donating glass top ornamental iron furniture to be used and also by assigning their artist to help with the planning and color scheme; it was decided to use gold and black. Furniture was ordered from Chicago and arrived the day preceding the show — presenting a reversal of plans, as the furniture which arrived was antique green instead of black, so the rug was switched to the same color of shag construction — giving the appearance of a lawn. Much of the credit and work on the show must be given to Mr. Wm. O. Husted, a non-member, who designed and constructed the booth and who worked like a Trojan. As a consequence, and out of appreciation, the Metropolitan African Violet Club made Mr. Husted an honorary member. The accompanying picture will give you an idea of the exhibit's final appearance.

Acting for the club were Mrs. Edith Hoy, Mrs. Regina Gottshall and Mrs. Fred Rosebrock as a property committee in conjunction with the above mentioned artist; Mrs. Eunice Toms was chairman in charge of securing and staging of the plants. Other members assisted in the arrangement of the booth and information service during the week-long show. Much interest was shown in the National Society and its publication, the African Violet Magazine. Had it been possible, the attendants at the exhibit could have sold well over a thousand copies of this quarterly. Several thousands of the Society's brochures and applications were distributed upon request for information.

Of the people who attended the show, those who came to see the gardens stopped to admire the violets and make inquiries about them; those who came to see the violets lingered to see the gardens.

Although the plants were not judged, the display received a "Highly Commended" award from the Judging Committee of the Show.

TO OUR FRIENDS
THE SEASON'S GREETINGS

Behnke
NURSERIES

Beltsville, Maryland

NOTE TO HYBRIDIZERS:
We think our RED PRINCE is a good prospect for breeding towards a finer red.
Blossoms: Clear claret red - medium.
Foliage: Light green, heartshaped, medium quilted, but not serrated. Very compact growth. Try your luck!
Each $3.00. Shipping again in the Spring.

SUPERPHOSPHATE
GROUND LIMESTONE
CRUDE NAPHTHALENE FLAKES
CHARCOAL
BONE MEAL

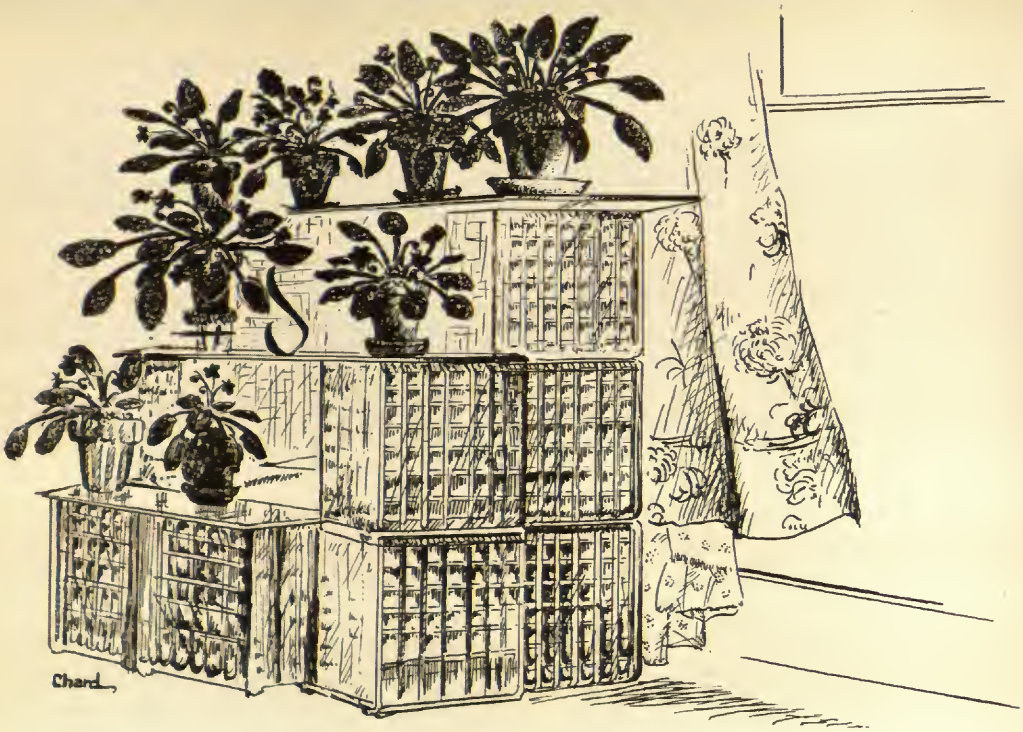
From the number of times these items are mentioned in correspondence as difficult or impossible to get locally there seems to be need for a mail-order supplier. I have arranged to stock them to fill that need.

Package of about two quarts of each, one dollar, postpaid. Combination package of bone meal, charcoal, ground limestone, and superphosphate, also one dollar, postpaid. Shipped in neat container which is excellent for mailing leaves.

What else do you have trouble getting? Drop me a line and I will see if it can be stocked also.

NEIL C. MILLER

Layton's Lake Penns Grove, N. J.



GLASS BUILDING BLOCKS AND SHELVES MAKE AN EXCELLENT LIVING ROOM PLANT STAND

Recipe for GROWING BETTER VIOLETS

Edna M. Agnew, New York

The first step is plenty of light. I keep my plants in south windows exclusively, allowing sun for a while in the morning during winter months with a thin curtain to protect from direct rays of the sun. During summer, I draw the shades until the sun has passed. My plants bloom almost continuously and seem to bloom better if given some sun.

The second step is room temperature and humidity. During cold weather, I keep my house at a temperature averaging 70-72 degrees. To overcome dryness throughout the rooms, I keep large vases or containers filled with water on radiators.

Watering is the third step. I water my plants after they have had their sun bath, feeling that by so doing they retain moisture longer. I use very warm water to which I add Hyponex or superphosphate once a week. I find that top feeding with superphosphate is very beneficial, using one teaspoon to a quart of water.

For leaf propagation I use a mixture of ¼ peat moss and ¾ vermiculite, feeding weekly with liquid containing ¼ teaspoon Hyponex to a quart of water. I keep them moist at all times and do not repot until the plants are about ready to bud. Then I repot in 3 inch pots containing a mixture of peat moss, vermiculite and sand, placing charcoal pieces in the bottom, and to each 3 inch pot I include 1½ teaspoons of vitaloam. I now use glazed pots which eliminate the use of the saucer, but which require watering from the top.

My husband made a fine plant stand from plywood which he varnished and waxed. It contains three shelves one foot wide and three feet long. The center shelf is seven inches lower than the ones on either side. For convenience, underneath the shelves on which the plants rest at the top, other shelves have been provided for plant accessories, vines or other material. I place this stand so that one end of the shelves on which the plants rest is near the window, the other end pointing out into the room. This arrangement provides more light for all the plants on all three shelves.

My larger plants are on a glass stand made of glass building blocks.

I never sterilize the soil I use, feeling that this reduces its value. However, I do sterilize pots. No other plants or cut flowers are kept in the same room with my violets. I seldom have a casualty with this method.

African Violet Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors

Complete information for shows, judges, exhibitors, definitions of violet show terms, scale of points, hints and tips, that will be a help in Judging School at Dayton. 75¢ each, mailing included.

RUTH G. CAREY
706 Garden Ave.
Fountain City, Tenn.

ANNUAL MEETING, DAYTON, OHIO,

APRIL 26, 27, AND 28, 1951.

AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS

Do

YOUR PLANTS GO OUT OF BLOOM?

YOUR PLANTS HAVE LICE ETC.?

Or

ARE THEY TO YOUR COMPLETE SATISFACTION?

Or

ARE THEY DOPED UP AND HAVE TO BE FED?

THERE'S NO DOPE IN WORMANURE

No wiggles, no crown rot, no lice, no plant without a heavy root structure but with gorgeous foliage and large continuous blooms. This we guarantee.

THE WORLDS LARGEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL AFRICAN VIOLETS
Are Grown In
WORMANURE

Sorry no immediate delivery. Please be patient.
Folder mailed upon request.

ANDERSON EARTHWORM HATCHERY
R. F. D. BLACKWOOD, N. J.

QUESTION BOX

Lauretta L. Littig, 3016 Jefferson Ave. Davenport, Iowa

Keep your questions coming in, and don't forget to help with the answers. The different solutions make it interesting.

QUESTIONS

To soften water, I was told to put in a pinch of soda, while another party said she softened water by adding ¼ teaspoon of alum to a quart of water. I once read to put baking powder in the water but to use only the kind without alum. Have you tried any of these?

Mrs. E. Lyons, Iowa

A friend brought me her violet plant in which the center leaves have turned a greyish white, and dropped down. The outer leaves look all right. As the flowers open, they drop off, and the buds dry up. What is the cause of this?

Mrs. D. MacArthur, Mich.

Some of my violets have very small blossoms which drop off shortly after opening. Some outside leaves wilt and the center leaves grow in tight clusters. This happens only to my older plants. Could this be caused by over watering or lack of fertilizer? I use rotted manure or commercial sheep manure.

Mrs. Vernon Gould, N. Y.

What causes a dusty yellow appearance on my African violets?

Could you give me a list of patented violets?

Miss Martha Davis, N. Y.

Could you tell me how to get rid of green lice on my violets? I have soaked them in tobacco tea, sprayed with Red Arrow and Black Leaf 40. I have repotted in clean soil and pots, but the lice come back. I bake my soil and pots.

Mrs. Homer Willis, Pa.

I read your article on, "How to Grow Gloxinias from Leaves." I now have a leaf rooted in water with a tuber. As Gloxinias have a rest period in November, am afraid if I plant it now, it might die.

Mrs. R. G. Wodarczek, W. Va.

Answer: As your little tuber hasn't done anything yet to need a rest, plant it in soil now. After it grows a nice plant and blossoms, it will deserve a rest period.

Lauretta L. Littig

ANSWERS

Grey Spots On Leaves

To Mrs. Ruth Brown, Ind.

I think the greyish spots on your plant is mildew, caused possibly from too much damp weather. A light dusting of wettable sulphur should cure it.

M. Warren, Ill.

I also noticed a moldy look on the blossoms, as well as the stems, on several of my plants. I found a good spraying of Optox stoped it.

Miss Louise Beritt, Calif.

Soft Leaves

To Mrs. Mabel Weaver, Pa.

Several months ago my Ionantha got soft leaves, flowers, everything. I didn't know what to do so did nothing. After a few weeks with regular care, it snapped out of it. Neptune did the same thing with the same results. I will be interested to know the cause as much as you will.

Miss Louise Bevitt, Calif.

Brown Scales On Stems

To Mrs. John Phillips, Iowa

I had similar trouble, and was told my plant had Efflorescence disease or petiole rot. The soluble salts on the top of the soil and pot rim had come in contact with the leaves and caused them to rot. I was told to scrape off the white substance and cover the pot rim with aluminum foil — also to wash the salts out of the soil with a solution made of ¼ teaspoon vinegar to a quart of water. There was a good article on Efflorescence disease in the July issue of "The Home Garden" magazine.

Mrs. H. Hunt, Iowa

Flower Pots Without Drainage

To Mrs. Otto Janck, Minn.

African violets may be planted in pots without an opening in the bottom if you use good drainage material such as pebbles or broken bits of flower pot. It is a good idea to sprinkle a little lime or bone meal over the pebbles before putting in the soil. Care should be taken not to over water. I prefer to put the plant in a clay pot and put this in your vase or teapot.

Mrs. E. Little, Mich.

Insecticides

To Mrs. John E. Jones, Ind.

I have tried different insecticides but had best success with N.N.O.R. I spray my plant once a month, and occasionally dip the whole plant in this solution.

Miss Joan Essler, Wis.

Flies In Soil

To Rosamond V. Earnest, Tenn.

I got rid of these tiny flies by wetting the soil well with Red Arrow. I had used rotted manure in the soil and believe the flies hatched in that as I hadn't sterilized my soil. I now bake my soil or sterilize it with formaldehyde, and have had no further trouble with flies.

Verma Leach, Wis.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

and a wish for

your happiness

all through

the

NEW YEAR

Alma Wright

Mary Parker

Best Wishes to all our friends for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
STARR DAHLIA GARDENS
869 Confederate Ave. S. E.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

JUDGES SCHOOL

Wednesday April 25, 1951

Dayton, Ohio

Complete Details in the March Magazine

Registration Report . . .

Neil C. Miller, Chairman

The necessity for the quick change in chairmanship of this Committee, with the accompanying requirement of transfer of records and familiarization with records by the new chairman, caused the normal routine of registration procedure to be somewhat interrupted during August and September. Information was not furnished to some applicants as quickly as could have been desired, and necessary correspondence concerning un-clear or questionable applications could not be properly completed. Fortunately, normal activity in these two months is the lightest of the entire year, so the total amount of retardation was small.

Following the practice initiated by Mr. Edens in the report published in the previous issue of this Magazine (September, 1950) the applications published will be classed in two groups, called Part I and Part II. Part I includes applications for registration on which no questions or objections have been apparent during processing or on which such questions or objections have been successfully answered. Part II includes applications on which some question is evident or felt, such as: inability of a written description to indicate difference or improvement, conflict of name, question as to origination or right to register, etc.

PART I

The following nine applications, in this group, have been received during this period:

BLUE EYED GIRL
Willow Terrace,
(May and Oscar Kunkel)
1830 Versailles Road,
Lexington, Ky.

BLUE FRILLS
Mrs. Clarence C. Anderson,
2459 Larimore Avenue,
Omaha, 11, Nebr.

EMPEROR WILHELM
Mrs. Arthur A. Pyle,
Russell, Iowa

GLORIOUS
Mrs. Myron W. Maybach,
241 Union St.,
Hamburg, N. Y.

LAVENDAR FRILLS
Mrs. Clarence C. Anderson,
2459 Larimore Avenue,
Omaha, 11, Nebr.

MISS HARRIET
Mrs. J. B. Preston,
3101 Willow Park,
Grove Park,
Roanoke, 17, Va.

ORIENTAL
Mrs. Ott Rule,
203 Doughty Road,
Fountain City, Tenn.

RED FRILLS
Mrs. Clarence C. Anderson,
2459 Larimore Avenue,
Omaha, 11, Nebr.

SNOW PRINCESS
Willow Terrace
(May and Oscar Kunkel)
Lexington, Ky.

These are published in accordance with Section 19 of the Code of Rules for Nomenclature and Registration. The Code provides that applications so published become permanently registered six months after publication, if no objections to registration are received meanwhile. Objections to registration - - and it must be emphasied that if any objections are felt they should be expressed - - may be made by writing in sufficient detail to the Chairman of the Committee on Registration, Mr. Neil C. Miller, Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J.

PART II

There are six applications on hand which are in this group. But some of the questions are rather trivial and could probably have been resolved if sufficient correspondence could have passed concerning them. In view of this, it has been deemed inadvisable to publish any applications under this heading in this report.

RED CLAY POTS

2¼ inch ..... $3.00 per 100
3 inch ..... $4.00 per 100
4 inch Squatty Azalea pots ..... $6.00 per 100
4 inch pot labels ..... $2.50 per 500
Dahlia & Iris labels .... $3.00 per 500

MEARS GARDEN SALES

R 3 Box 89
Anderson, Ind.

COMPOST

Mable Boyd, Tenn.

Much hard work and time are spent producing beautiful yards and gardens. May we take time to think of some of the basic facts of producing and preserving the useful and beautiful nature around us. How many of us stop to think that we keep the yards too "clean"? How many of us realize that we still have too much pioneer spirit. We clean up and burn too much or have it hauled away.

Plants take their share of strength from the ground. This must be returned to keep the earth well nourished. The laws of nature are so that we cannot get something for nothing. We must return to the earth for the value received in all plant life. Undernourished soil becomes hard and packed and dries out easily, crackles up as it dries, letting it dry faster, thus producing poor plant life.

The finest plants are produced in rich mellow soil, so let us turn to one of the very best means to keep it that way, or if the land is in run down condition, to restore it to "wanted health".

May we become COMPOST MINDED, take this seriously and start now to help Mother Nature in her great effort to wrap the earth in leaves and dead vegetation protecting the richness from washing away. Let's become conscious of how muddy every ditch runs after rains. Let's observe vegetation in crusty soil making a feeble struggle to live while that in rich mellow soil flourishes.

Let's become FIRE CONSCIOUS and realize what criminals we are to have bonfires of leaves. May we preserve that which is plentiful around us.

Start by arranging some place in the back yard where you can pile all the rakings, grass clippings, leaves, vegetable trimmings, table scraps, etc., even feathers and chicken dressings (they are very high in nitrogen), in fact everything except glass, tin cans and paper. Add stable manure, preferably cow manure, throw a little dirt over this collection and dig in anything that will attract flies.

Never worry about odors. Mother Nature has a wonderful chemical laboratory for breaking down and purifying everything that is buried therein. Earthworms are the scientists that stir, aerate and enrich waste for us.

When friend husband finds the rich supply of earth worms that come to make their home in compost, he will keep it turned often, digging them out for fish bait!

Keep the pile watered if there is a drought. Stirring occasionally speeds the process Mother Nature is carrying on.

A wall isn't necessary, but a few boards, a row of broken concrete, a fence of low chicken wire or possibly a concrete block wall or a small brick wall will prevent the spread of materials you have collected.

This may seem unsightly at first. Overcome that little streak of false pride. You will soon be repaid with rich mellow compost for distribution to desired places.

May we soon point with as much pride to the "compost I have made" as to the "beautiful flowers I have grown".

HOMING PIGEON

Cont. from page 25

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PIGEON EDITOR

It has been difficult to gather enough material for our column this time. So many people including myself, have been on vacation. So many have been in a rush of getting settled when they returned, they wrote only short notes and sent the Pigeon on to keep from holding it up. I hope that from now on every one will settle down, and when you sit down to write a letter for your Pigeon Unit, that you will include at least one good hint. If you can't give a hint from experience -- pass on some tip that you may have heard from someone else. Many Directors are complaining that their members forget to send their courtesy cards -- PLEASE do this!! Many Units have become lost. Any one knowing the wherebouts of Units 21 and 61 please report at once to me. If you are interested in joining a Unit, please send your name to Mrs. Canner and not to me.

Once more I am asking for your help! I have to depend on your letters for material for this column. I want it to be a good one — don't you?

I'll be listen'n'

Sincerely

Violet Berry, Editor

TWO PIECE PLANTERS

Control Watering of Your African violets.

No. 8 Oval 3x4x4 at $1.50
No. 9 Square 4x4x3 at $2.00
No. 10 Oval 3x4x3 at $1.00
No. 11 Square 4x4x4 at $2.50
No. 12 Rect. 3x5x3 at $2.50

Terra Cotta and Stone Grey

See Article and Pictures, Page 17, Sept. Issue This Magazine.

F. O. B.

TOPPING HILL CRAFT

Rush, N. Y.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Leaves . . . Plants

Many new varieties. Send for list.
Leaves 3 for $1.00. Minimum order $3.00.

NOKER'S PLANT NURSERY

West Chestnut Ave. Vineland, N. J.

IDEAL XMAS GIFT

FOR PLANT LOVERS

This perfectly balanced, 100% water soluble, plant food will give new life, gorgeous bloom, stronger roots to all plants. Guarantee bloom in African violets. Ideal for starting seedlings, cuttings and transplants. Your gardening friends will be delighted with Plant Marvel as a gift from you. 16 oz. can makes 250 gals. plant food. Handy measure, directions and free leaflet on African violets with each pkg. $1.25 P.Pd.

PLANT MARVEL LABORATORY

12050 Parnell Ave. Dept. AV3
Chicago 28, Ill.

VARIEGATION

Cont. from page 22

ringspot patterns of diseases caused by viruses that I became interested in this subject. I wished to undertake transmission experiments in order to learn whether or not the African violet ringspots were caused by a virus. When I began to look for healthy plants to use in such experiments, I was unable to find any. Reports were received that certain individuals possessed African violets that did not have the disease, but on investigation every report proved to be unfounded. Some individuals did possess plants that showed hardly any symptoms, but on careful examination every plant was found to be diseased, and to show at least some mild symptoms. The symptoms were very inconspicuous in certain instances. After being unable to find any African violet that was free of this disease, I concluded that all clones in the trade had become diseased. I next sought to obtain disease-free plants from seeds. It is a well known fact that most virus diseases are not transmitted through seeds. Hence it was hoped that by this means it would be possible to get healthy plants. I grew a fair number of African violets from leaves that appeared to be completely green, but every plant thus obtained showed the disease."

"I next turned to species belonging in other families for healthy experimental plants. It is sometimes possible to transfer a virus from the family of plants in which it does not occur naturally. So I inoculated juice from badly diseased leaves of African violet into leaves of many different species. None of these inoculations were successful. I obtained seed of a number of different species in the family Gesneriaceae. When plants of this species were grown from seed it was found that they all had the disease. If it is caused by a virus, it is transmitted through seed as well as by vegetative propagation. The disease is widespread if not universal in the Gesneriaceae, the family to which the African violet belongs. It has not been observed in species belonging to other families. By experimenting, I learned one more thing about the disease. It can be almost completely suppressed by growing African violets or other species in the Gesneriaceae under proper conditions of lighting. In bright sunlight it becomes serious. In fairly deep shade, its effects almost disappear."

"I am unable to answer your question as to why plants grown from leaf petioles of the variety Blue Girl are greener in the first than in the succeeding vegetative generations. Such behavior, if it occurs, can not be considered as due to a recessive or a dominant gene in the generally accepted sense."

PEP-O-PLANT

IDEAL FOOD for House Plants
Especially suited for African violets
Rich in Plant Vitamins
6 oz. bottle added to water
makes 42 quarts
50¢ per bottle postpaid

LE CLERCQ COMPANY
Box 3015 Minneapolis 10, Minn.

VIOLETS
THRIVE
in
VERMICULITE POTTERY

Because the roots get all the oxygen they need. Stagnation and souring of the soil is eliminated and excessive evaporation of moisture is retarded with these attractive sturdy planters.

Available in 5 sizes and in 3 pastel gold flecked colors - Green - Rose - Blue

Model A

Model B

Model C

6-Model A-4" - $6
4-Model A-6" - $8
4-Model B-6" - $6
4-Model C-11" - $8
2-Model C-16 - $6
POSTPAID

VERMICULITE POTTERY, Inc.
P. O. Box 991
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

AFRICAN VIOLETS
LEAVES - PLANTS
Most of the older varieties and limited stock of many new ones, including Fringettes, White Girl, and Fantasy
Write for List
E. H. THOMAS
457 Bridges Road Walnut Creek, Calif.

Courtesy of Evan Roberts, Supt. Horticulture Greenhouses, Michigan State College. "Apparently there are two types of variegation in African violets.

1. Regular (for example, Blue Girl).
2. Irregular.

Variegation depends on:

1. Where the new plants originate, as cuttings -- from which layer cells they originate.
2. Inheritance. (Some variegation is inherited).
3. Other factors. Some variegation is caused by virus diseases, some by lack of fertilizer and some by other conditions."

Courtesy of Orland E. White, Blandy Experimental Farm, University of Virginia. "So far as I understand the situation, there are two different kinds of variegation, one caused by environment and the other which you regard in the Blue Girl variety as a hereditary phenomenon. This latter type is the one that appears to involve the different kinds of tissues, one chlorophyl defective, and the other normal green. My own opinion is that it is a chimaera phenomenon (a mixture of tissues of different genetic constitution in the same part of a plant), in which mutations occur in the normal green tissue and these are often swamped later by the normal tissue."

Courtesy of H. M. Butterfield, Agriculturist, University of California. "It is true that the loss of green color in parts of African violets may not be a characteristic that is carried over into the rooted plants. Either the loss of color is not an inherited characteristic or else it is in the form of a chimaera, where the small plants that develop at the base of the petiole on rooted leaves revert back to the ordinary green form. The only way whereby a variegated chimaera could be preserved would be to make divisions of the mother plant rather than root leaves."

"The plants that form at the base of a petiole usually form from the inner "cambium" (a soft formative tissue which gives rise to new tissue in the stems and roots of plants), and there is always the possibility that plants with variegated foliage that is a chimaera of this sort will have the variegation limited to the surface tissue, rather than extending into the cambium, and that is why the rooted leaf cuttings revert back to the original form."

"People interested in chimaeras should know that there are three general kinds: one which involves the variegation just mentioned; another which we usually refer to as a sectional chimaera where only a section of the plant is affected; and the third where only the outer tissues are affected."

TIMELY SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR AFRICAN VIOLET CULTURE -

CHARCOAL - Granulated, horticultural grade, ideal for soil conditioning. Plastic bag 50¢ P.P.
OPTOX - Effective insecticide spray. Per bottle 60¢ P.P.
AFRI- GROW - Same time proven soil we use ourselves and have sold for years. Sterilized by latest methods. 3 lbs. - $1.00, 5 lbs. - $1.50, 10 lbs. - $2.50 P.P. (West of Miss. add 05¢ per lb.)
HY-GRO - Balanced liquid fertilizer. Per jar 60¢ P.P.
PEAT MOSS - Imported, horticultural grade. Per bag 50¢ P.P.
PLANT LABELS - New, streamlined wood labels. Pkg. of 100 $1.00 P.P.
VERMICULITE - Finest rooting medium 4 qt. bag 85¢ P.P.
"CARE & CULTURE OF AFRICAN VIOLETS" Concise Booklet by Lloyd P. Lindsey. Latest edition 60¢ P.P.
"THE AFRICAN VIOLET" by Helen Van Pelt Wilson. $2.75 P.P.
WIK-FED POTS - 4 inch size $1.15 ea 12 for $11.00 P.P. New 5 inch size $1.50 each 12 for $15.00 P.P. Choice of Ivory, Pink, Yellow, Lavender, Green, Red, Blue. Black bases.

FREE CATALOG - Send for our catalog listing many other supplies and over 100 varieties of certified plants, rooted cuttings & leaves.

FRENTZEN FLORAL GARDENS

Dept. A 309 Lake Ave.

Pitman, N. J.

Courtesy of W. D. Holly, Associate Horticulturist, Colorado A. & M. College.

"The reason that variegated African violets do not reproduce themselves is that the bud or new growth originates from green tissue. Should the buds originate from the white part of the tissue, they die before they reach the soil surface in most cases. The only chance for them to reproduce is if the bud originates from the line between green and white. Even though they come from green tissue, there is a possibility that the tendency toward variegation is carried along and crops up in later generations. It is impossible to fix the degree of variegation in African violets with any degree of satisfaction."

Courtesy of James H. Bodge, Director of The International Hybridizers Society of America.

"Variegation is of two kinds, one natural and one due to exterior causes. In African violets and instances of natural variegation as that of the grey or pearl streak at the base of the leaves of the African violet Viking, this is due to the fact that at this point on each and every mature leaf one layer of cells which contains chlorophyl is missing. This is also the cause of white spots on Rubra Begonia leaves and the pearl gray veins in Begonia Compta. This type of variegation is permanent. It occurs in all plants of this type."

"The second type of variegation is due to exterior causes; it may be caused by too much or too little plant food; too much or too little sunshine; an excess of one or more of the trace elements or a lack of trace elements thereof, especially iron or manganese in the potting soil and numerous other causes. When a plant with naturally green leaves produces one or more offsprings which are variegated, either with white or with colors, these plants are sick. When the natural balance of soil elements is restored, the leaf or leaves affected will either die or lose their variegation. If one is able to root a leaf or slip (some will be and some will not), and it is planted in soil of the same chemical composition, as that which produced the original variegation, it will continue to grow as a variegated plant during the time of its brief life. It will not produce variegated offspring unless the same set of conditions exist. What causes African violets to produce variegated leaves is not fully known. It may be and usually is due to lack of iron or manganese in the soil, as these elements are naturally present in minute quantities, (but sufficient to produce chlorophyl) in all soils. It is only under extraordinary circumstances that both are entirely absent, in that case the leaves of all plants growing in that soil will gradually

turn white and the plants will die of starvation. When insufficient maganese is the reason, some leaves will become streaked with white. A chemist can therefore cause variegation in any plant."

"There is no positive certainty in the theory that variegated leaves propagate green in the first clonal vegetative propagation and variegated in the second clonal vegetative propagation; this phenomenon may or may not happen as mentioned above. Let me give you an example: The Geranium (Happy Thought), when grown in soil in which sufficient iron and manganese is present will lose all its bright coloration and the leaves will be just like other all green Geranium leaves. This particular plant requires more manganese than any other known plant, which is the reason why it is variegated, as few soils contain sufficient manganese to allow it to produce regular Geranium leaves."

Courtesy Mrs. Banks McDowell, Tulsa, Okla.

"I have ten variegated plants. From these I have taken about twenty five leaves and propagated them. Of the twenty five leaves, only one sprouted a variegated plant and that was a leaf with a stem an inch above the ground. I tried the method of cutting the petiole out of the leaf about one half inch and planted the actual leaf. They have sprouted, but there is no variegation in the offspring, so far. My seeds have come up, but I cannot tell as yet, they all look green to me." In a later letter she mentions, "At the present time I have only two true variegated plants. The others have all turned green in the center of the crown. The variegation must have been caused by a deficiency in the soil; and as my soil is rich and well balanced, they overcome this condition. Of all the leaves that have sprouted so far, I have propagated only one variegated plant, and this leaf was from one of the true variegated plants."

Another lady mentioned in a robin letter, "I planted 12 leaves from a variegated plant. All the plantlets that came up were green. I planted 12 leaves from these small plants, and the resulting offspring were also green."

One famous woman grower of African violet claims every variegated violet plant she receives, reverts back to all green, when planted in her rich soil.

The second question that I asked was, "What are my greatest chances of obtaining variegation in seedlings from crosses made with true variegated plants. For example; a cross between two variegated plants, or a cross of a variegated plant on a totally green one, or vice versa." The answers are as follows:

FREE SAMPLE

PLANTSMITHS

SPOONIT

EASY-TO-USE-FERTILIZER

"JUST THE THING" for African violets.

A trial will cost you but one penny - for a postal card. So send today for your sample.

PLANTSMITH

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DEPENDABLE

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Now offering

White King (new)
Blue Eyed Beauty (new)
Lady Geneva
Double Neptune
Red King
Bronze Girl and many others.

Send for free price list. We supply Wik-Fed pots, potting soil, plant food, The African Violet Book, etc.

THE HARMON NURSERY

PROSPECT, OHIO

SODIUM SELENATE. For control of mite on African violets. In capsules of ¼ gram each, convenient for Extra-Dilute Method of treatment. 12 capsules (enough for about 200 plants) for $1.00. Due to change in Post Office Regulations shipment will be by express, collect.

PLASTIC PLANT LABELS. 3/8" x 4"; thin, will bend with leaves; easily written on with ordinary lead pencil, can be erased and used over; won't rot, mildew, or break; a fine Christmas gift to a violet-growing friend, sent gift wrapped if you desire, be sure to send name of person to whom they are to be sent. 125 for $1.00, postpaid.

MRS. NEIL C. MILLER

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Penns Grove, N. J.

New and Better Aids to Successful Violet Culture

Junius Violet Mix - A blend of fine grey sand with partially decomposed horticultural peat. Superb for seed flats, cuttings and leaf culture.

2 lb. plastic bag $1.00 postpaid.

Chatelier's water soluble Plant Food with nutritional organics. Guaranteed analysis 8-8-20. Generous 18 ounce can makes 118 gals. complete plant food.

Per can $1.00 postpaid.

Both for $1.80 postpaid.

JUNIUS PEAT COMPANY

481 South Main St. Geneva, N. Y.

Don't Take Chances!
PROTECT THOSE PRECIOUS VIOLETS

KAPSULATE - Means Sodium Selenate in Capsules by KAPCO. In a safer form to control mite on African violets.

Kills Insects Thru the Soil
Also used on other houseplants

18 capsules $1.25

NuPHOS-K is a soluble 15-30-15 complete plant food for liquid feeding.

7 ounces 49¢

Use KAPSULATE every 3 months for insect control.

Feed NuPHOS-K every 2 weeks for vigorous plant growth.

Both KAPSULATE and NuPHOS-K for $1.49.

KELLY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS CO.

603 Walnut Street
McKEESPORT, PENNA.

Evan Roberts - "The regular variegation is apt to be continued through seedlings."

Professor Holly-"Chances are slim of producing variegation in seedlings. With any plant there is a chance that an occasional variegated plant will come, and of course, if parent plants are variegated, there is more chance for the seedling to be variegated. The factor for variegation is a recessive one, so to get variegation in seedlings, one must have each parent carrying this factor; even then, most of the seedlings will be green."

E. B. Risley - "Seedlings from crossing variegated plants may produce seedlings, all of which, some of which, or none of which, are variegated, depending upon the genetic makeup of the plant. On this point, I do not have the information you are seeking. That is, we wish to know whether the factor for variegation in African violets is a dominant character or a recessive. Knowing this, we can apply the rules of Mendel and predict the results of crossing the different types of plants. It would be well to add that variations may also result from agents, such as heat, cold, mechanical injury, etc. Such variations occur on only one part of a plant, and vegetative offspring from this affected part usually will retain the new variations, although often reversion to the original will occur. These are known as sports or mutants and are rare and unpredictable."

Individuals interested in the drug Colchicine to induce variations in plants should read the book entitled **Plant Magic**, by James P. Haworth. Also see the government bulletin, "The Use of Colchicine in Plant Breeding", by Haig Dermen and S. L. Emsweller, as this is a lengthy subject in itself. Other good literature to read, which deals with variations, is the bulletin, "Genes, Species, Variability and Plant Breeding", by Dr. Orland E. White, and "Histogenesis of Some Bud Sports and Variegations", by Haig Dermen.

My own experiments with variegation are limited, but I will tell you what my observations have been. I have 10 variegated leaves of different varieties under propagation at the present time. I also have several small plants that are still too small to bloom or to predict whether they will continue to be true variegated plants or not. One very large and beautiful variegated leaf of Blue Girl came from Denver, Colorado. The elderly and very generous lady that gave it to me said, "I planted a green leaf from my Blue Girl plant and only one plant came up from the base of the stem; it was variegated."

Banish the . .

BLACK FLY

Esther E. Schadewald, Pa.

So many African violet fanciers have been annoyed or embarrassed by a swarm of Tiny Black Flies around their plants. The flowering plants look so beautiful on the dining room window sill, but Black Flies are most unwelcome guests at a dinner party.

Many have written in to the Editor offering their suggestions for eliminating the pests. Others have been contacted by mail and gladly offered to tell of their experiences with these flies. Their letters follow:

William E. Beatty

Los Angeles, California

"A few months ago, I reluctantly accepted some African violets from my sister and put them on the bench with my orchids. Shortly afterwards I noticed white maggots in the compost and a large number of black flies. As I had used this treatment before on orchids, I assumed it would do the violets no harm: on the compost I poured D.D.T. available under the trade name T.A.T., using half strength, i.e., one tablespoon to one gallon of water. One treatment was sufficient and I have seen no maggots or black flies since. I did not spray the foliage."

Mrs. Emil Rhoda

Oley, Pa.

"Black Flies are usually found in soils containing manures. I use manures that are very old and well rotted. These form a rich humus. Dried, shredded, commercial manures must be well rotted, too. If black flies have already appeared, they can be controlled if a spray program is carried out with Vapatone, Black Leaf 40, or a similar product, at five day intervals. Vapatone is excellent for killing Cyclamen or Broad Mite and Thrip. Usually two months is required for a complete cleanup."

Mrs. Paul Dissinger

Lancaster, Pa.

"Last year, for the first time in fifteen years of growing African violets, Black Flies appeared by the hundreds and I became frantic. I had used dehydrated cow manure, hyper humus and bone meal mixed with woods soil. I found that I had purchased an inferior grade of dehydrated cow manure, because a friend had the same experience with this brand as well. I took the matter up with a professor at the Lancaster experimental station. He said that dehydration will not kill the larva of Black Flies. It only kills weed growth. I sprayed Flit containing D.D.T. around the room containing the plants and found that it killed all of the flies. Flit has an oil base and would be apt to harm the plants if they were sprayed directly."

Nettie Yehnert

Akron, Ohio

"Here is a formula which I think will solve the problem of Black Flies.
1 tablespoon Household Ammonia
1 tablespoon Saltpeter
1 teaspoon Epsom Salts
1 teaspoon Baking Powder
Dissolve this in one gallon of water and use once a month, or oftener if necessary, and watch the plants grow and the flies go."

Nellie E. May

Baltimore, Md.

"A friend in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, who has raised African violets over a long period of time, has had success using Safeway 10% D.D.T. It is an insecticide powder in a flexi-cap applicator box that is sold in the ten cent stores. Her friends have used it successfully, and I have used it whenever a plant looked suspicious or little gnats or flies appeared near the plants. It has never injured a plant and has also been used to clean mealy bugs from plants. The plants are dusted once with it and after two weeks the plants are dusted off with a fine brush and are found to be as good as new."

Marjorie Welton

Meriden, Kansas

"I have had plenty of experience with flies around my African violets, because I use a soil mixture which is rich with rotted cow manure. I tried every cure, and finally in desperation I used an "Aerosol Bug Bomb" containing 3% D.D.T. I used it first on a few plants and watched the results. After no spots appeared on the plants and the flies were dead, I used it

Cont. next page

For . . Rooting Leaves

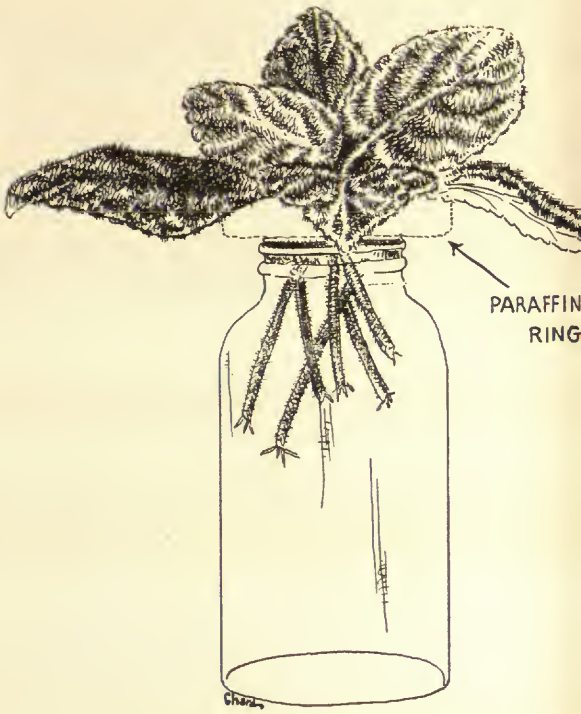

Illustration by Arthur Chard

Bess Skadron, Calif.

One of the safest and best methods of rooting saintpaulia leaves in water is the following. It never fails for me.

Make a paraffin ring or disk one-fourth inch thick and a little larger than the opening of the container you wish to use. Punch out a suitable number of holes through which you may insert leaf stems. Smooth the edges off so that there will be no rough places -- Place this ring over the open mouth of your container of water and set your leaves in place. They will root safely with no danger of decaying, as the paraffin does not seem to promote leaf rot. When they have rooted, break the paraffin ring apart and the little plantlets and tender young roots are not damaged at all.

Try it — you are sure to be pleased!

BANISH THE BLACK FLY

Cont. from page 47

around all of my plants. One or two sprays around each shelf was enough to do the job, then in a few days, when more flies hatched out, I repeated the treatment."

Mrs. Jack Rhodes

Lowellville, Ohio

"My experience with Black Flies quite a number of years ago was truly an unhappy one. After living in a fool's paradise for years, as I had never heard of house plants having pests, I discovered that the nice rich soil which I had dug from near the chicken house, must have been full of black flies. I had never heard of anyone sterilizing soil either. I laugh when I recall dragging out the vacuum cleaner attachments daily to gather the flies from the window panes. Needless to say, there was a fresh supply of flies daily. I finally decided to get busy with a spray. I used one teaspoon of nicotine to one quart of water and poured some of the solution around the edges of the pots. I did this six times at three day intervals. After that I saw no more black flies. Now I sterilize the soil."

Mrs. Robert Bruce

Memphis, Tennessee

"I think that I have the little Black Flies licked. They were very bad last spring. I used a powder called "Destro" with D.D.T. I sprinkled it on the soil (not the plant). I also sprinkled it on the window sills and tables containing my plants. It does not hurt the plants and I have not seen the flies since. I have been growing African violets for eighteen years as a hobby."

After reading these letters from the many growers, I was impressed by the fact that D.D.T. used in low percentage seems to be most successful in combating Black Flies.

CONVENTION DISPLAY

Cont. from page 11

and the My Lady Series with the Girl type foliage. Orchid Prince is orchid at the edge of the flower but shades much darker toward the center. The foliage is olive green and very red veined on the underside. Blue Moon has a round moon flower, medium blue. The leaves are glossy and dark green.

Nagler's display was not ready when the show opened, but we did enjoy their Admiration, rather like White Amazon or White Supreme, good flower and foliage. Marionette must have been the plant that drew so much interest in their showing in Atlanta. It had extremely large leaves that were broad and lighter green veins. Mary Nagler was in charge.

Helen Pochurek displayed Tunia's Red Butterfly, Fantasy and a very good White Girl.

Year Books were on display from many of the African Violet Clubs that showed not all of their time was spent on their plants.

Many very good plants are being left out of this report, but it is impossible to tell of them all. Even if the show had lasted a week, we would have regretted leaving it.

We missed the Exhibitors of the two years past who did not show plants this year; Ulery's, Bill Merkel, Mrs. Yoars, John Good and Peterson's. Henry Peterson did get to the show but did not have a display. Next year, perhaps we will have the privilege of seeing their plants, those who displayed this year, and still new ones. Judging from the plants we saw this year, it would not be too much of a surprise to see a scarlet or perhaps even a yellow one next year.

The Show was a success, thanks to those who brought plants, our officers and especially to Esther Schadewald and her Committee; it was a big undertaking and very well done.

AN AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW

Every Day in the Year at GENT'S Greenhouses

ALWAYS OPEN

We have over 60 varieties - Thousands of plants continually in bloom.

Our prices are reasonable: 2¼ in. plants 50-75¢, 3 in. plants $1.00-$1.25, 4 in. plants $1.50-$2.00.

Newer Varieties Slightly Higher

These prices are at Greenhouse only. WE DO NOT SHIP.

Some of the new ones on our list are: Bronze Girl, Sailor Girl, Double Neptune, Blue Eyes Amazon, X Congo Queen (Red duPont), Blue Warrior, X Blue Eyed Beauty, X White Girl, X Fringette Series, X Fantasy, Violet Beauty, Giant Light Blue, Double Light Blue, Gorgeous Bi-Color.

Varieties marked X are higher priced. We sell wholesale on 25 plants or more - our selection.

JOHN R. GENT

595 VOSBURG ROAD, WEBSTER, N. Y.

From Rochester take Culver Road through Sea Breeze - 2 miles to Vosburg Road.

Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd. St.
Perry, Iowa.

THE GYPSY AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB ORGANIZED

In October of 1949 six violet enthusiasts met and organized Richmond, Indiana's second African violet society. The name of this new club is The Gypsy African Violet Club. Each member being the owner of at least one of the Gypsy Series of African violets.

Officers elected were:
President, Mrs. Ray E. Markey
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Geraldine Lacy
Treasurer, Mrs. Irene Teegarden
Secretary, Mrs. Cleo Hardwich
Reporter, Mrs. Robert Phillips

PIEDMONT CALIFORNIA

The African Violet Society of Alameda County was organized September 29th with six charter members. Officers elected for the coming year are:

President, Mrs. Evelyn Wroobel
Sec.-Treas., Mrs. Harold Henningsen

Mrs. Constance Hansen will serve as Program Chairman, and plans are being made for participation in the California Spring Garden Show in April.

RICHMOND SHOW IS SUCCESS

Mrs. John T. Pangola was the outstanding winner of awards at the Richmond, Virginia Spring Show which was held on Saturday and Sunday June 3rd and 4th, at the Carillon. Best in the Show, first, second, and third prizes were won by Mrs. Pangola.

Numerous honorable ribbons were given in all classes. There were 210 entries. The Show was well attended with a large group of interested visitors both days.

Mrs. G. Hobert Frank served as show chairman with Mrs. George Ross as co-chairman. Judges were Mr. and Mrs. Warren E. J. Gottshall of Alexandria, Virginia.

OMAHA SPRING SHOW

The Joslyn Memorial was the setting for the Third Annual Show held by the Omaha African Violet Club.

Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Richert compare plants

Serving as chairman was Mrs. C. C. Anderson with Mr. Raymond Gain as assistant.

Long tiered tables were covered with green and silver foil as a background for the plants on display, and huge baskets of roses set among the violets brought out their lovely colors. One feature of the show was a table displaying all of the named varieties of saintpaulias. These were alphabetically arranged to give the visitors an idea of the large number of named varieties in commerce. Outstanding too was a table of seedlings raised by members of the club. These caused considerable comment because of their beauty. Pollination was explained at the propagation table. How to use African violets in arrangements were displayed and then arranged by Mrs. J. G. Groff.

Show attendance for the two days was around 8000 visitors who waited in long lines to see . . . "Whats New in Violets."

GREATER KANSAS CITY CLUB

The African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City was founded in April, 1950; with temporary officers appointed for six months. At the first meeting 49 members joined the club, which meets once a month.

After six months, the club has grown to 77 members, 31 of which are National Members. The first election was held September 12, with the following officers elected:—

President, Mrs. W. P. Dahnke
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Joe Herman
Secretary, Mrs. R. Milton Cochran
Treasurer, Mr. C. W. Carey
Corres.-Secy., Mrs. E. E. Davis

SALEM COUNTY SHOW

The Salem County African Violet Society held its fourth annual show on Wednesday, May 3, 1950 at the Greystone Inn, Woodstown, N. J. The show was open to the public from 2 until 9 P.M.

About 450 persons attended and visitors from several states attended.

There were 188 beautiful violets exhibited. Plants were arranged on long tables down one side of the room which made a beautiful display.

Across one end of the room a table held saintpaulias in interesting arrangements. Almost every type container was used. There was a strawberry jar nearly covered with blooming plants, a brass tea pot holding a lovely violet, and many other arrangements, equally attractive. One especially nice feature was an old log hewn out to make an ideal setting for several different varieties of violets, all in bloom.

There was also a display of seedlings and it was interesting to see them in different stages of growth.

Mrs. George Keen of Woodstown was Chairman of the Show.

Mrs. Radtke and Mrs. Turner

T. V. SOCIETY LUNCHEON

The Tennessee Valley African Violet Society had Mrs. Arthur Radtke as guest of honor at a luncheon October 31st, at Deane Hill Country Club.

Mrs. D. F. Harmon, social chairman and her committee had charge of the arrangements. Thanksgiving decorations were featured.

Attending the luncheon were members from the Oak Ridge, Athens, and Norris Clubs. One hundred and nine members and guests were present.

Mrs. L. M. Wright was in charge of reservations. Mrs. D. S. Turner, President presided.

HYPONeX

Grows Better Plants Faster in SOIL, SAND or WATER

Simply dissolve and water all your houseplants, garden flowers, vegetables, shrubs or lawn. Produces stronger plants, more and larger flowers and fruit. Excellent for starting seedlings, cuttings, transplants. Clean, odorless. Won't burn foliage or roots if used as directed. Contains all nutritional elements complete and balanced—plus vitamin B1—instantly available. Results sure.

Guaranteed by Good Housekeeping

If your dealer can't supply you send $1 for 1 lb. can postpaid. Makes 100 gallons

HYDROPONIC Chemical Co., Inc. Copley, O.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

The newest varieties available at all times. Stamp for list.

HELEN POCHUREK
14225 McCracken Rd.
Cleveland 5, Ohio

POTS FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

4" "Squatty" Clay Flower Pots, dark red in color and with excellent porosity, are ideal for AFRICAN VIOLETS. Has specially treated edges to help prevent sloughing off of leaves. Used by florists for growing violets, and recommended as one of the best for good results. Shipped prepaid parcel post.

4 for $1.00 10 for $2.00
25¢ additional postage west of the Rockies

CERAMO COMPANY

Box 84-A Jackson, Missouri

TWO FINE NEW PRODUCTS FOR YOUR VIOLETS . . . .

VIOLET LAZY SUZAN
(Patent Pending)

Our Violet Lazy Suzan is the last word in proper display for those favorite house plants. A gentle push will revolve the three tiers in the pedestal. This feature enables you to change the position of your plants which is important in the proper culture of plants that receive indirect sunlight. All plants are made readily accessible for watering and other care with practically no effort.

The Suzan is a very useful table in many other ways in the home. It is well constructed of plywood; weighs 20 lbs.; is 40" in height with 10" between tiers. It is 24" in diameter and the tiers will hold 10 to 12 large plants or 20 to 24 small ones. Available in natural finish only or unfinished and ready for staining to match surrounding furniture. The Suzan would make a grand Christmas gift but be sure to order early to insure delivery.

Prices - Parcel Post Prepaid:

Violet Lazy Suzan - Unfinished @ $12.50
Violet Lazy Suzan - Finished @ $14.95

(Add $1.25 extra postage to Western States)

Gro-Mulch is the wonderful new all organic material that is being talked about in garden circles. Gro-Mulch is mellowed in the aging deposits of Spanish Moss that have lain for over 50 years in the bayou section of South Louisiana. Earthworms that are attracted by the tender moss particles, have converted the deposits into a superlatively rich soil conditioner. The deposits are recovered, dehydrated, refined and packed into bags for your use.

A mixture of one part Gro-Mulch to two parts of soil will make a superlatively rich medium in which to grow your plants. The luxuriant growth and colorful blooms in greater quantities will delight you.

10 Pound Bag Prepaid Parcel Post @ $2.00

(Add 75¢ extra postage to Western States)

80 Pound Bag - Motor Freight Collect @ $7.00

BOX 8066 **SCHROEDER'S INC.** CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

VIRDANS True Flowering

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Vigorous, healthy plants, out of 3 inch pots, in bud or bloom. Our reputation for integrity and highest quality plants is attested by thousands of customers coast to coast. You can buy violets cheaper -- but not plants like these!

NEW HYBRID GIRLS	Sailor Girl -- light blue Blue Girl -- Bronzeleaf Hybrid Detroit White Girl Red Girl -- Bronzeleaf Hybrid Pink Girl -- Prettiest Pink
BLUES	Lady Geneva -- White Edge Blossom Neptune Supreme --Brand New Double Neptune -- Only Perfect Double
REDS	Red King
WHITES	White Beauty -- Blue-eyed Beauty

All plants carefully packed, insured, guaranteed to arrive in excellent condition. Full, helpful cultural directions with every order. (No C. O. D.)

Above Plants $3.50 each, Postpaid
ANY FOUR FOR ONLY $10.00 ($14.00 Value)

WE PAY POSTAGE

VIRDANS FIRST AID KIT

for African violets, other house plants. Contains everything needed to protect them from thrips, mealybugs, many dangerous pests. Easy to use, full instructions with each kit. Complete kit by mail only $3.00 postpaid.

EXTRA CASH IN SPARE TIME

Agents Wanted: to demonstrate and sell Virdans First Aid Kit! Sells on sight. Easy to use, gives valuable plants full protection from insect pests. Excellent profits for women who sell this Kit and Virdans Soil, Plant Tonic, other products. Extra cash for Christmas, other wants -- from a little spare time. Write for full details today.

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BETHAYRES, PA.

African Violet
Magazine
MARCH 1951
VOLUME 4 NUMBER 3

African Violets

LIVING COLOR FOR YOUR ROOMS!

This is the page to watch for, to tempt your purse . . . won't you treat yourself to the joy of adding at least one of these "must-haves" to your collection . . . to keep it up-to-date!

LAVENDER BEAUTY

Imagine a silvery mauve in the lightest tint possible, large flowers with no coarse markings; medium sized foliage, a profuse bloomer that is just exquisite. If you must limit yourself to one new variety - - this is the one to buy! $2.50

ORCHID WONDER

Very small stock on this one, early orders only. Not of "Supreme" background but its flowers peek out behind 50¢ piece! And, 9 or more buds to stalk . . . richest lavender coloring in center of flower. A real wonder! $3.00

VIOLET BEAUTY

Light - blue - lavender which captivated everyone at our exhibit at the A.V.S. Convention this Spring! Not rose-lavender, but a blue-lavender, with a satiny finish, no markings. Blooms abundantly, with larger than average flowers. $2.50

RED KING

Not crimson red of course, but the nicest so far. Holds its color, best grown in sunny window. Foliage darkest possible green, underside deep wine. Robust plant. We have dropped all other "reds" in our catalog in favor of this one! A yellow or blue Wik-fed pot brings out the rich claret flowers most effectively. $2.50

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FLOWERS:

Immense dark blue giant-sized beauties with heavily fringed and fuzzy rick-rack type margins on the petal edges. Jewel-bright golden eye in the center. FOLIAGE: Ruffled and waved on medium stems with "girl-type" fluting, and "Supreme-type" habit, remaining compact. BRAND NEW VARIETY, LIMITED SUPPLY: $3.25.

Other New-in-my-Catalog VARIETIES:

ROSE MARIE NEW INTRODUCTION THIS YEAR!

Positively a true rose color, no suggestion of blue in the flower and it even has a rose-colored pistil! A new hybrid seedling with upper two petals a bit deeper than the lower three, but the overall tone is definitely ROSE. FLOWERS: Large as 50¢ piece, with stems of deep wine; FOLIAGE: Smooth tailored, lightly quilted with reddish reverse. This variety is very stunning alongside a blue or pure white variety. $3.00.

SNOW PRINCE

Absolutely pure white blossoms full, round, and honestly bigger than a silver dollar. Possesses superior qualities and growing habits. If you have had difficulty growing the pure white ones, we guarantee that SNOW PRINCE will give you new confidence. Upright growth. $3.00.

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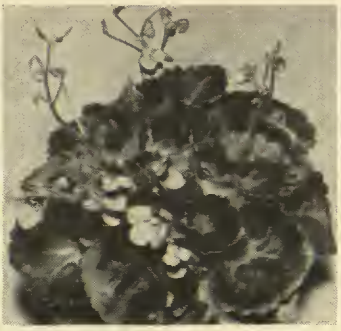
NEW INTRODUCTIONS

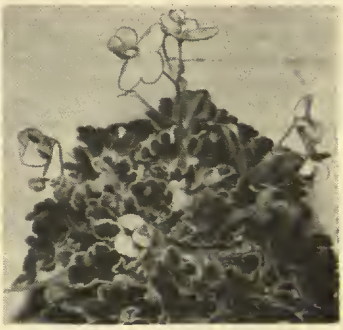
of MRS. FERNE KELLAR and MRS. F. W. GAMMELL

We have been very fortunate in obtaining exclusive distribution rights from Mrs. Kellar and Mrs. Gammell for their newest and finest violet creations. Society members know Mrs. Kellar as their first President and a hybridizer and cultural authority for more than twenty years. Mrs. Gammell has worked with Mrs. Kellar and has added new varieties of her own. The violets shown here are the fruits of many years of crossing and study. We think they mark an entirely new field of violet breeding for excellence of growth, attractiveness of foliage and beauty of flower.

BRONZE QUEEN
Intensely bronze, girl-type foliage with large, crenate, slightly quilted leaves. A strong grower with dozens of medium light blue flowers held erect and high. Twelve to fifteen flowers to a stem . . . $2.75



ORIENTAL GIRL
Another true bronze-leaved variety. You'll be delighted with the richness of color of these leaves and the fine, clear orchid bi-color blooms. Excellent growth habits and free-flowering . . . $2.50



"SEAFOAM" SEA QUEEN
"Seafoam" is an entirely new type of violet foliage. It resembles sea spray tossed by the breeze. Areas of cream white on dark green all curled, rick-racked and very ruffled to form the daintest, airiest foliage ever developed. It must be seen to be appreciated. Rich, heavy bloom of orchid color $2.75

"VIOLETTES" (Miniatures) THE MOST PRECIOUS THING IN VIOLETS

VIOLETTE PIXIE
Another rare foliage type, with chartreuse zones and rays cutting up deep green. Foliage is puffed and bubbled, giving a sparkling, gem-like quality to the plant. Flower is full size orchid bi-color. Extremely rare and most interesting . . . $2.75

VIOLETTE BRONZE BABY
A true-bronze miniature with girl type foliage. Leaves are rich bronze, heavily quilted and deeply serrated. Extremely fine growth habits mark this dainty beauty. Full-size orchid flower . . . $2.50

VIOLETTE BRONZE ELF
Miniature, girl-type, deep, deep bronze foliage very glossy and neat . . . foliage is "bubbly" and twinkles and sparkles like carved and polished mahogany. Flower is large and orchid in color . . . $2.75

"ROSETTE" RED

Another entirely new type foliage. Resembles a strong "rosette" or calla-lily. Leaves are strong, erect and deeply scalloped. Plant looks entirely new and different. Dark Red flowers about the color of Red King . . . $2.75

Growers and fanciers who have seen these new violets have been extremely enthusiastic about them . . . actually they add an entirely new look to the Saintpaulia. You must really SEE them to appreciate their beauty. Prices quoted above are prepaid. We guarantee perfect delivery. Orders will be shipped in rotation and are subject to supply limitations.

THE MAHR COMPANY

Box 585, Des Moines, Iowa

African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

Vol. 4 March 1951 No. 3

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Alma Wright, Editor
4030 McCalla Ave., Knoxville 15, Tenn.

Mary Parker, Assistant Editor
Harrill Hills, Knoxville 18, Tenn.

Evan Roberts, Research Editor
355 N. Harrison St., E. Lansing, Mich.

Floyd L. Johnson, Advertising Mgr.
79 West Gibson St., Canandaigua, N. Y.

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 West 3rd, Perry, Iowa.

Neil C. Miller, Mgr. Veterans Affairs
Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J.

Contributing Editors - Boyce Edens, Regina Gottshall, LeBerta Morgan, H. G. Harvey

News Reporters – Harriett F. Lawton
Emily Hodan Daisy Jones
Warren Gottshall Phyllis Ferrall
Martha Mears Ruth Dahnke
Florence Foltz Lauretta L. Littig

Homing Pigeon Dept.:
Helen Pochurek, News Editor
14425 McCracken Rd., Cleveland, Ohio

Gladys Canner, Membership Mgr.
Route 1, Creek Rd., Herkimer, N. Y.

OFFICERS

Mrs. Arthur Radtke, President
3334 Orion St.
Cincinnati 13, Ohio

Mr. Floyd L. Johnson, 1st Vice-Pres.
79 West Gibson Street
Canandaigua, N. Y.

Mrs. C. H. Harris, 2nd Vice-Pres.
757 Athens Boulevard
Los Angeles 44, California

Mr. Neil C. Miller, Rec. Sec'ty.
Layton's Lake
Penns Grove, N. J.

Mrs. W. P. Dahnke, Corres. Sec'ty.
5611 Newton Road, Route 2
Merriam, Kansas

Mrs. Earl Mutchner, Membership Sec.
606 Richmond Ave.
Richmond, Indiana

Mr. Boyce M. Edens, Treas.
2694 Lenox Rd., N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

TALL STEMMED GOBLETS

Adelaid Early, N. C.

I became very enthused and interested in the study and propagation of African violets while a resident of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. I learned much from my neighbors, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Bowman as they grew very splendid plants.

After leaving Oak Ridge I spent several months with my daughter in Winston Salem. She had just moved into a new home with two lovely large picture windows having a north-west exposure.

For the sake of beauty as well as convenience, eight of my choice plants were transplanted into tall stemmed crystal goblets. For a planting medium I used a mixture of peat moss and vermiculite with about 2 tablespoonfuls of well rotted cow manure to each glass. The plants soon became root bound and continued to bloom profusely all winter and thru the spring.

Friends who came were charmed and rather amazed that such lovely specimen violets could be grown in glasses without drainage. Top watering interested them too . . . as it was so successful.

My Blue Girl is exceptionally lovely, but White Lady had to be put back into a pot with a drain as it did not seem happy in the glass without drainage . . . though I thought I was most careful with watering.

Other plants have been planted in glasses now that I am in my own home. Five large picture windows are filled, and they are a riot of bloom.

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Light Blue and Dark Blue	**each $1.50**
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All are out of 2¼ inch pots and are well established, healthy, vigorous plants. They must be seen to be appreciated. Send for our FREE folder describing our many other and newer varieties, also hints on how to grow AFRICAN VIOLETS successfully in your own home.

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RED PRINCE. Clear claret red, medium size blossoms. Light green quilted foliage. **Each $2.50**

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

Congratulations to Martha Husted - - - she is the winner of the Convention Cartoon Contest. Our many warm and hearty thanks to all the wonderful members who sent in their identification letters. Most of you were correct. Reading from left to right — Alma Wright, Myrtle Radtke, Boyce Edens, Esther Schadewald, and Warren Gottshall.

See you in Dayton!

Sincerely,

Alma Wright

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Change of address: Send your new address at least 30 days before the date of the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

President's Message

On to Dayton

A hearty welcome to our many new members! We are very happy to have you with us and we believe you will enjoy your membership.

Sincere congratulations and best wishes to our numerous new local clubs and chapters. You are doing a very fine and worthwhile work — we are proud of you and wish you unlimited success in your every undertaking.

Having had a peek into what is in store for us at our Fifth Annual Convention to be held in Dayton in April, I am most enthusiastic. The arrangements made by Mrs. Ralph Berst, Mrs. Earl Mutchner and their committees are now practically complete and most promising, - - even the menus are planned and they sound wonderful. I'm sure you will really enjoy the food.

The program being planned by Mr. H. G. Harvey with the able assistance of Mr. Boyce M. Edens sparkles with interesting speakers and subjects and will be educational as well as pleasing. This promises to be the best convention we've ever had.

In addition to all this there is the School for Qualifying Judges. This is to take place on Thursday, April 26th. It was planned originally for Wednesday, April 25th but since there was some opposition to a four day meeting and because we cannot have the large space necessary for our opening luncheon meeting on Thursday - - the judging school will be held Thursday previous to the convention which will start with a meeting at 2:30 P.M. We hope this will be satisfactory to all.

Your committee for the judge qualifying course Mrs. James Carey, Mrs. Ott Rule and Mrs. Frank Parker have worked hard and faithfully. This school being very important and something entirely new and different, understandably, from other judges' schools had to be very carefully and painstakingly planned. The girls have worked out a very fine procedure and we believe you will be well pleased with it.

Help your committee please by getting your reservations in promptly. Your committees, directors, members of the magazine staff, and officers give a great deal of time and thought to the work of the society and receive no compensation whatever. The members can aid by expressing their opinions and ideas. We are always happy to receive your suggestions.

Our beloved and hard working magazine editor asks for your help. Please print your name plainly on your application and if your name in our handbook is not spelled correctly, if the address is not sufficient or if you are moving, please notify Mrs. Wright. It is her desire to get your magazine to you as quickly as possible - - so please help her.

Will be looking forward to seeing you in Dayton and do let us get acquainted - - May this be the friendliest and happiest convention ever! !

Sincerely,

Myrtle Radtke

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN LIBRARY

Saintpaulia Grotei **A. Engler**

Photograph by Harvey Cox

Grown As A Cascade or Hanging Specimen

Saintpaulia Grotei . .

A quite spectacular plant, that will stir the imagination, is S. grotei the trailing or creeping African violet, a new species plant imported from Africa. S. grotei has large medium green round dentate leaves with creeping brown stems that sometimes root at the nodes. Flowers are blue-violet shading to a darker blue-violet toward the center. It may be allowed to vine or may be supported wound around a small totem pole.

Saintpaulia Grotei **A. Engler** Photograph by Harvey Cox

Grown As A Climbing Plant

Full description by Evan Roberts in Volume III, Number 3, March 1950 African Violet Magazine.

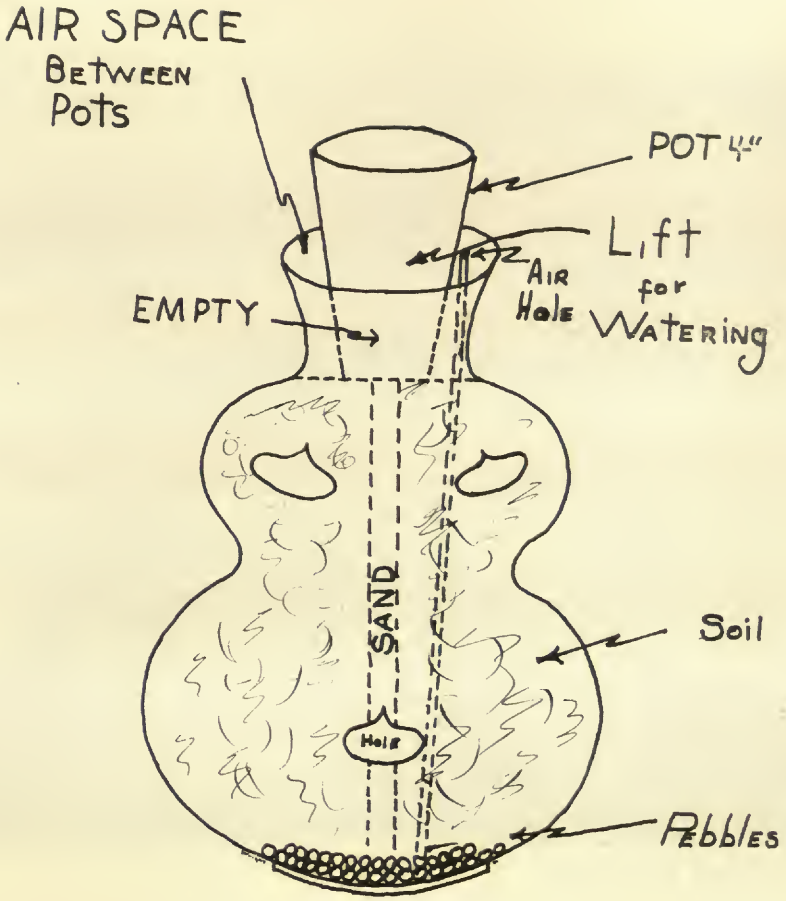
Try a STRAWBERRY JAR

Erma Petrick, Ill.

Not long after I joined the Chicago African Violet Club we were invited to exhibit plants at the Crystal Lake Society Show. I thought about what I would exhibit and decided on a Strawberry Jar. I had several plants and did not mind experimenting with them . . . so with violets that gave promise of early bloom I prepared the jar and planted it.

My method was as follows: The jar used was 12 inches high and had 8 openings besides the one at the top which was 5½ inches wide. I sterilized the jar, sufficient limestone chips, charcoal, and builders sand to work with. Beginning by placing a layer of limestone chips in the bottom, next a layer of charcoal then sand to fill in the airspaces . . . I filled the bottom of the jar before adding my regular soil mixture to which was added a little bone meal. Thus the jar was filled to the level of the first openings in which the plants were placed and soil carefully put in around the roots. A ½ inch aluminum tube was set in place (see aluminum tube is marked air hole in diagram) so that I might better control the watering of these plants in the bottom.

Mrs. Petrick's prize winning Strawberry Jar she exhibited at the Crystal Lake Show last Spring.



It is not possible to water them thru the openings as the water rolls off before the soil absorbs it, and the plants soon grow so large they close the opening anyway. The jar was then filled with soil to the second level of openings - the aluminum tube filled with water and the soil wet down very lightly with Hyponex water. Then let it set for a day to settle before planting any more. When you plant the second time use care in setting your plants and in filling in the soil so as not to have air pockets. Sprinkle the top layer of soil with Hyponex water very lightly and fill the tube again.

Last I add a little hill of sand (about 1 inch) which does not show in the diagram and on this I place a little glass bowl which does not show either. This will leave an air space about ½ inch wide around sides of the glass bowl for ventilation. Place a little sand in the bottom of the bowl. Any plant in a separate pot you wish to use may be set in here and it may be moved as fancy dictates as the glass bowl serves only as a jardeniere to hold the pot.

A little "horse sense" in watering is necessary. This Strawberry Jar will not need as much water as plants growing in clay pots or other small containers. The jar is glazed and it holds more soil - evaporation is slower - the ½ inch space around the glass bowl is all the ventilation it has so please do not over water!

With this method and care all of my violets lived and have bloomed the second time . . . so I have planted more jars. My last one has a hole in the bottom for drainage and it seems to be doing especially well.

Many Strawberry Jars on the market are barrel shaped and too high and I am afraid my system might not work so well in them unless care was taken to control the dampness in the bottom of the container. Possibly a hole for drainage and more gravel would be advisable.

My three jars have been very lovely and most successful . . . I urge you to try one. Everyone will admire it I am sure - even people who do not grow African violets as yet.

Mrs. Gammell and Mrs. Kellar

WHAT'S IN A SEED

Ada Magill, Ill.

While admiring an extensive collection of African violets some one asked, "Just how far can these African violets take one?"

Before taking a trip to parts of Iowa late this summer, I might have ventured a guess to that inquiry, but not now. Late in August, Mary Mayer, of Calumet City, Illinois, and I started out to visit Mrs. Ferne V. Kellar in Des Moines, Iowa. It was about five o'clock Monday afternoon when we rang Ferne's doorbell. She greeted us with open arms and before hats could be removed we exclaimed, "THE VIOLETS"—they were everywhere we looked.

I had met Ferne at the 1948 and 1949 conventions and knew her through correspondence and having bought leaves of her lovely saintpaulias through the mail. Mary had never met her; nevertheless, we were old friends from the moment we set foot inside her door.

As we tried to look further at violets in rooms we passed through Ferne said, "Follow me," taking us to the basement. We paused all along the way to give a look at saintpaulias in the kitchen windows and in a small porch off the stairway. Before we reached the last step to the basement greenhouse our eyes fell upon several thousand plants from tiny seedlings to mature blooming plants. "In the basement," you say. "Yes." They are beautifully grown on long greenhouse type benches the full length of each wall in two rooms. Industrial type fluorescent daylight lamps suspended on chains above the benches furnish excellent light for the growing and blooming. In fact, as a result of the regular hours of measured daylight, the deep rich color in the foliage is brought out, along with an unusual satin-like sheen which is most noticeable and desirable. On wide shelves above and below the benches are flat after flat of leaves being propagated. Here and there among the plants

under the lights you see a coffee can or a small box with a carpet of soft green across it. Upon inquiring, we were told they are seedlings just coming through the soil.

I was anxious to see the Mulberry Girl, the Mulberry Girl seedlings and the Blue Girl crossed with Neptune of which I had leaves under propagation. "They are in here," Ferne said, leading the way to an adjoining room. A portion (about 9'6" x 16'6") at the end of this room is a true greenhouse with glass built up over it. She picked up a two inch pot as she remarked, "This is what they look like now." Almost horrified, I told her they look like chickens that had been picked except for the wings. She quickly assured us we would get to see a number of well groomed Mulberry seedlings the next day when she would take us to see Mrs. Gammell's violets. (Lest you wonder if the skeleton plants were caused from disease or pests, you must remember I purchased leaves some time ago, as have countless other collectors, thus stripping the limited supply to their present state.)

In the midst of questions and admirations Ferne said, "I had better be thinking about something for you gals to eat." "EAT —when there are African violets to be seen and talked about," we retorted. However, along about nine P. M. we sat down to a bountiful dinner. It was over that dinner table (we talked way into the wee hours of the morning) that we learned that Ferne Kellar's interest in saintpaulias began some twenty years ago with one plant given to her by an Aunt.

It was in those early days of her hobby, which, like many another hobby has grown into a business, she began to try her hand at cross pollination; to be specific, that was fifteen years ago. Many of her seedlings have found their way into homes of violet enthusiasts, known only as Kellar's seedlings, Kellar's Blue or by no name at all because Ferne did not deem them worthy of a name. Judiciously selecting parentage for fine foliage, size and color of bloom, Mulberry Girl was created. As the name signifies, it is Girl type, with deeply crenated, yes, almost scalloped, cup shaped leaf. It has a large white spot at the throat of the leaf. A stately, large, deep rich red blossom stands well above the foliage measuring one and a half to two inches across. This is a choice plant and one you will want in your collection. From self-pollination of Mulberry Girl there is now a series of beautiful seedlings. To date these plants are known only by number, that is to say, Mulberry Girl seedling No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, and so on.

The following morning Mary and I watched the clock for the time to roll around for that promised visit and look at Mrs. Gammell's violet plants. The time came—as we entered the living room of Mrs. Grace Gammell, two arm-side tables pulled close to the windows and filled with exquisite, well grown African violet plants drew us like a magnet. In harmony, Mary and I asked, "WHAT ARE THESE?" "They are Ferne's Mulberry seedlings," Grace answered. For a minute or two there was a profound silence—we just looked, until suddenly, one of us excitedly asked, "What is this one?" "I call that

Cont. on Page 47

Oriental Girl

"Seafoam" Sea Queen

More about . . . .

Growing African Violets under Fluorescent Light

H. G. Harvey, Ga.

The articles about growing African violets under fluorescent light, by Fay Stillwell, which were published in the September, 1949 and December, 1950 issues of the Magazine have been of value to a large number of people. Among them is Mrs. Philip Genntison, who lives in Atlanta, Georgia. Mrs. Genntison, wanted to raise African violets. But her house is located in a very pretty grove of trees, so much of a grove that none of her windows had sunlight exposure enough to raise the violets. When she read Mrs. Stillwell's article, she started in her basement, with the result that she now has over ninety plants in four inch pots and larger which are the envy and delight of her neighbors. Her first project was a two tier table, fitted with one fluorescent lamp fixture on each tier, each fixture containing two 40 watt "daylight" fluorescent tubes 40 inches long. These lights are turned on by a time switch, whose original intended destiny was to turn lights on and off in a chicken house. The lights are turned on 14 hours a day during the summer months and 16 hours a day during the winter. This table, shown in Figure 1, has developed into the exhibition table, and at the time the picture was made contained forty plants of twenty-five varieties,and all but two of the plants were in bloom.

The next expansion was a second, similar table. This was intended to be the propagating table and is illustrated in Figure 2. As will be seen, this table soon became more than a propagating table, the larger plants gradually taking it over. However, Mrs. Genntison reports that it was highly successful in growing leaves, and has never lost a leaf she started

Mrs. Genntison with Exhibition Table

Large plants have taken over the space that was intended for propagating young plants and leaf cuttings. Note quantity of bloom and fine foliage.

under the fluorescent lights. But the number of plants increased, as they have a habit of doing with either artificial or natural lighting, and two more fixtures were rigged up over a ledge at the edge of the basement wall. The menage now consists of six fixtures with a total of twelve 40 watt tubes, all controlled by one time switch. The cost of operating these twelve tubes is about seven cents per day.

The quantity of bloom is excellent. One Ionantha with a twenty-four inch leaf spread, in an eight inch pot, had 130 blooms at one time. A younger Pink Beauty, in about the equivalent of a four inch pot, has had forty blooms. The plants bloom practically continuously, with very few rest periods. The color and size of blooms is fine. In general, the blues are a little bluer than in natural light, the pinks and whites are true in color, and only the reds show a slight tendency to get a little bluer and not as red as they are under more normal conditions. The leaves may be a little lighter than they are in sunlight, but they are extremely healthy, smooth and clean. The plants grow vigorously and rapidly. Eight inches from the top leaf of the plant to the tube appears to be the best distance.

Cultural technique is the same as for more conventional conditions. Heat is no problem. The temperature gets as low as sixty degrees in the winter, and very seldom goes above seventy-five degrees in the summer. Watering is done from the top. The soil is a mixture of ⅓ woods dirt, ⅓ peat moss and ⅓ sand, with a little sheep manure added, about a tablespoonful to three cups of the mixture. The fertilizing procedure is as follows: 1st week, superphosphate, ¼ teaspoon per quart; 2nd week, Hyponex, ¼ teaspoon per quart; 3rd week, Vitamin B1, minimum dosage; 4th week, sheep manure water, 1 teacup to 3 gallons (let stand three weeks before using). Then the routine is repeated. Leaves are started in either water or vermiculite, vermiculite being preferred. In either case, Hyponex, ¼ teaspoon per quart is used. With vermiculite, this solution is used to water the leaves, in "water" the Hyponex solution is used through out.

Fluorescent lighting has been the answer to Mrs. Genntison's problem. It has enabled her to grow African violets with outstanding success and satisfaction under conditions where otherwise she would have been unable to grow them. As usual, the violets are spreading out, covering more territory all the time. There is room for one more fixture in the basement. After that the only available space is a dark room in the corner where Mr. Genntison pursues his photographic hobby. Predictions are dangerous, but Mr. Genntison is already looking apprehensive when his wife talks about how crowded her African violets are getting.

Species Nomenclature of the African Violet

Continued, With Special Attention to The

Species Saintpaulia Goetzeana

Harvey Cox, California and Evan Roberts, Michigan

Photo by Philip Coleman

Are you going to Africa? If you are, then here is a species of African violet for which to look. It is one that has not yet been introduced into the United States. No less a famous botanist than Professor Adolph Engler, whose classification of plants is used in practically all of the plant manuals of all the countries, first named this very interesting plant in the year 1900.

Saintpaulia goetzeana Engl. has a rather tragic history because Mr. W. Goetze, its discoverer, died of a tropical disease soon after he found this species. Fortunately, he prepared a very good herbarium specimen and took detailed notes and managed to have the results sent back to Professor Engler of Berlin for its botanical rating. Engler published the description in his Botanische Jahrbucher, volume 28, number 4, July 13, 1900, in Latin and German. The drawings shown in this article, as well as much of the written material, have been taken from this text.

Saintpaulia goetzeana Engl. is an herb of the same succulent type as Saintpaulia ionantha Wendland, but distinguished by developed stems 1—1.5 dm. long with 1.5—2 cm. long internodes in the lower and middle part of the stem, with shorter ones in the upper part of the stem. The petioles are 2-4 cm. long, the leaf blades 1.8—2.8 cm. long and wide. The flower stem is 3—3.5 cm. long, with pedicles 6—8mm. long. The sepals are 3 mm. long and barely 1 mm. wide. The upper part of the corolla is about 6 mm. long and 4 mm. wide, connected at the bottom, the side lobes 7—8 mm. long and 7 mm. wide, the front part 9—10 mm. long and 7—8 mm. wide. The filaments are almost 3 mm. long with 2 broad anthers. The 1.2 mm. long ovary extends upward into a 2 mm. long style.

With this description and by the drawings, you now have a means of identifying this species of African violet, but where will you find it growing? In Africa, in Tanganyika Territory. Yes, there is the place to look, but Tanganyika is a large land area! You would have to search many miles, if Mr. W. Goetze had not recorded that he found it growing in central Uluguru; in the primeval forests on the south side of the Lukwangule plateaus, 1300 to 2000 meters on large bolders among moss. But wait! Perhaps you have lost your way. That is easy, just ask a native where you can find a plant known as MAUHIAMBULUGI, which is the native African name of the plant.

Explanation Of The Drawing — opposite page

A Entire plant; B Longitudinal section of flower; C Flower cut open and spread out; D Stamens; E 2 sepals, discus and pistil; Cross section through the lower part of the ovary; G Cross section through the upper part.

Saintpaulia Goetzeana Engl.

J. Pohl delin. Verlag von Wilhelm Engelmann in Leipzig.

Meet My . . . Favorites

Florence Foltz, Pa.

Love Birds — Blue Ribbon winner 1950 National Show

None of us will ever forget the thrilling moment when our first violet babies peeped out of the ground; equally exciting was the day our first plants bloomed, but for the thrill supreme, try seedlings. At least, it seems like nothing could be more thrilling, - - - when those tiny green specks appear, and miraculously grow into blooming plants, - - but, violet friends, when a far off dream, such as sometime growing "something really good" suddenly comes true, there are no words to describe it. I felt numb, I wanted to laugh and cry at the same time, and I certainly was not

Blue Snow

responsible for anything I said or did for more than a week! As you may have surmised, this wonderful surprise came when my seedling "Love Birds" won First Prize in the seedling class at our Fourth Annual Convention held May 12-13 at Philadelphia. Since Love Birds came from seed purchased from a very dear friend, Miss Fay Wilcox, may I here give her the credit due her for the part she played in my success.

There comes a time, I'm sure, in every African violet enthusiast's life when he, or she, knows practically all there is to know about raising violets. I passed that stage a few months after the baby had grown from my first leaf. Many of you will doubtless remember the "Home Garden" topic, "How I Succeed with African Violets." At that time I couldn't even get them to bloom, but I HAD raised one from a leaf, so I sat down and wrote 750 words on the subject. With my spirits high, (was there anything more I could know about them?) I decided to try raising them from seeds, and whether it was dumb luck, or whether the good Lord was just making it easier for me to bear the shock I was to receive later, the seeds germinated. Then the sad letter came from the contest wishing me better luck next time. How could there be a "next time" - - I had told them all I knew the FIRST time and didn't even rate an Honorable Mention. Then I suddenly realized that maybe I didn't know

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Mrs. Peters in her greenhouse looks over some of her collection of saintpaulias

How to Use "Fermate" *Fungicide*

Rosa Peters, Mich.

"FERMATE" FOR TREATING PLANTS USED AS A SPRAY OR DUST

TO PREPARE SPRAY

Use 2 level tablespoons per gallon of water. Do not attempt to mix dry Fermate powder with the full amount of water. First make a thin, smooth paste by adding water to Fermate and stirring; then add paste to water in sprayer and agitate.

TO PREPARE DUST

Mix 1 part, by weight, of Fermate with 9 parts, by weight, of any commonly used diluent, preferably talc or pyrophyllite.

APPLICATION

Begin application of Fermate before diseases are apparent or at first sign of infection — preferably before infection occurs. Applications should be made often enough to keep new growth covered; once every 7 to 14 days is a good schedule to follow. However, timing of application is best gauged by the growth of the plants and the weather. Wet weather favors the development of fungous diseases and more frequent applications are required. In prolonged dry spells, applications are

Cont. on Page 46

SHOWS

MUSCLE SHOALS AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

A most interesting show was held in Florence, Alabama in November by the Muscle Shoals African Violet Society of the Tri-Cities Area. Featuring a theme of "Home Sweet Home" many unusual displays captured the interest of the Violet public during the two days the plants were on display.

An educational arrangement shows a wheel chair on which was placed improvised shelves with 14 sick plants dressed in white crepe paper . . . These convalesing violets had been dipped in a parathion mixture before being placed in the show. This exhibit was set apart from the other plants to discourage contamination. Each pot was labeled with its ailment and the treatment prescribed for its cure.

Below — The Nursery was an exhibit of full grown plants attached to young plantlets by ribbon. The objective of this arrangement was to acquaint the public with properly named varieties showing the blossom and leaf pattern of an adult plant in comparison with a young and undeveloped specimen. Arranged by Mrs. W. R. Kershaw and Mrs. S. F. Johnson.

Above — Opening the Muscle Shoals Show. Miss Helen Smith, Cotton Queen of Lauderdale County officially opened the show by clipping the ivy vine while Mrs. M. M. Striplin, Chairman of the Show and Mrs. M. J. Hester, President of the Society stood by.

CANADA EXHIBIT

Mrs. C. A. Ray, and Mrs. B. J. Ewens of Port Credit, and Mrs. Douglas Jones of Toronto, Canada, collaborated on an unusual exhibit of Saintpaulias at the North Toronto Horticultural Society's Annual Flower Show on Saturday, August 19, 1950, in Eglinton United Church.

These lovely plants were shown in a natural setting of mossy logs, rock formations, and ferns reflected in a small pool. The glistening whites and delicate pastels of Amethyst, Amazon Pink, Blue Eyes, Lavender Lady, Double Light Lavender, Double Crystal Blue, and West Coast Amethyst were especially lovely against the delicacy of wild Maidenhair ferns. The richer tints of Frieda, Red Head, Redland, duPont Lavender Pink, Norseman Amazon, Alice Blue Gown, and Blue Warrior, against the deeper green of the rock ferns, made a very pleasing contrast also.

Of especial interest was the grouping of Lady Geneva, and all the newest doubles ranging from pale lavender to dark orchid, and pale blue to deep violet blue.

Another group that came in for special attention was of the lovely "Girl" plants with their beautifully scalloped and patterned leaves—pinks, lavenders, reds, and blues. Also the group of Fringettes with their rippled foliage and fringed blossoms.

These three ladies started collecting plants about three years ago as a hobby, and to-day they each have one of the finest collections in Canada.

Below — Exhibit at North Toronto Horticultural Society's Annual Flower Show.

Mrs. C. H. Harris, Mrs. Carolyn Rector, Mrs. J. E. Mackey, and Mrs. Ira Marsh

LOS ANGELES SHOW

The Los Angeles Chapter of the African Violet Society held its first African Violet Show on June 6th, at Exposition Park Club House. Over 3000 persons viewed the show in the four hours it was open. Over one hundred varieties of African violets were on display, including, Evan Robert's S. grotei and S. tongwensis, which were displayed by Harvey Cox, of Long Beach.

Mrs. Holmes Harris displayed a group of Armacost and Royston original plants. Sweepstakes for the most points in the show went to Mrs. Harris.

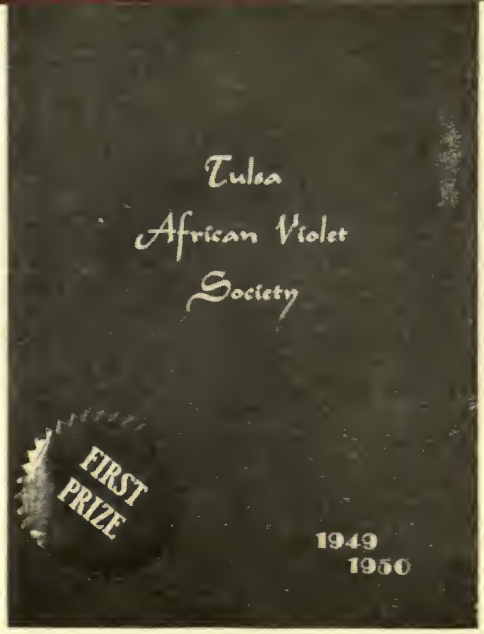
The show was attractively staged by Mrs. Fred K. Ehardt and Mrs. D. R. Jones. An outstanding feature was an educational exhibit arranged by Mrs. Holmes Harris. A unique display was entered by Mr. Ira Marsh, husband of our secretary, Geneive Marsh. It was a board covered with aluminum foil in silver and magenta, displaying the word WELCOME, with eighteen inch letters, using sixty small two-inch pots with violets, placed in holes drilled in the letters. It was outstanding and won a first award.

Ruby Sharon displayed her collection of violets grown in wik-fed pots. There were many other unique displays using the Saintpaulia. Several nearby growers, Ted Banks and Cecil Houdyshel, had beautiful displays, as did three local florists. Mrs. Holmes Harris was show chairman. Mrs. Mildred Nitsch, Mrs. Ernst Ruebel and Mrs. A. J. Maxham were the judges.

The highlight of the afternoon was the crowning of the "Violet Queen," charming and demure little Dorlene Marsh, of San Pedro, who was also an exhibitor in the Children's Section. A special prize in the division was awarded by the Saintpaulia Society of Long Beach.

On July 21, our chapter opened its new year with the installation of its newly elected officers. Mrs. J. Ernest Mackey, Regional Councilor of this district, was the installing officer. The officers to serve the ensuing year are:

President,	Mrs. Carolyn Rector
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Holmes Harris
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. D. R. Jones
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. James Reeves
Treasurer,	Mrs. John Gallagher
Corr. Secy.,	Mrs. Gower Watters



Yearbooks . . .

PRIZE WINNING YEARBOOKS

Pictured are the three prize winning yearbooks at the Philadelphia meeting last spring.

First Prize — The Tulsa African Violet Society.
With a handsome dark purple suede cover this was a most outstanding book.

Second Prize — African Violet Club of New Jersey.
Grey suede with purple violet on the cover. A very lovely book.

Third Prize — Delaware County, Pennsylvania African Violet Society.

This book has an attractive grey cover with a color picture of Ionantha.

Red Head

duPont Lavender Pink

Orchid Flute

Blossoms Galore!!!

Margaret Travis, Tenn.

As we walk along the path of African violet culture, we are all searching for something different to add to our collections. Some are searching for something new in odd shaped foliage; others for blossoms with assorted colors. All in all, the majority of violet growers have but one outstanding aim in mind; that is, an abundance of blossoms on all plants.

Mr. Albert More of Junction City, Kansas, has the answer to the bountiful blossom problem. Mr. More grows all of his Saintpaulias in Wik-Fed pots.

The room in which he raises his plants is on the south side of the house, size 14' x 8'. The walls consist mostly of windows. There are two windows on the east and west sides, and four on the south side.

Mr. More has invented his own type of shelves There are eighteen shelves holding over a hundred and fifty plants which are from six months to two years old. These plants produce an abundance of blossoms, as you can observe by the accompanying pictures.

The sun is kept out, or diffused, according to the time of day, by a screen over the windows called Koolshade. This screen is made of flat copper wire and is fitted like a Venetian blind, which lets in plenty of light but keeps the sun out.

There are different ways of controlling humidity. If the humidity drops below 40° in Mr. More's sun room, he uses a Hankscraft Vaporizer, which holds seven pints of water and is operated by electricity. The water is steaming in about five minutes after the vaporizer is started. It then takes from five to six hours to attain the desired degree of humidity. This degree can be controlled for several hours by closing the inside doors of the sun room.

The following are good pointers given by Mr. More on his method of African Violet Culture in Wik-Fed pots:

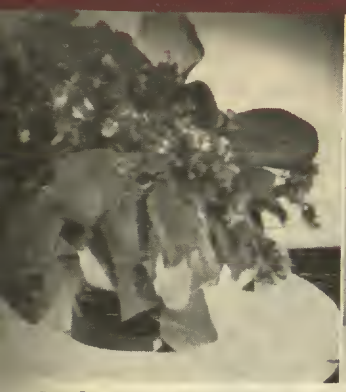
1- Water once each week, but do not let the water stand in the containers all the time. One can determine the need of water by the look, or feel of the wick and soil. If either the wick or soil feels damp, do not water that day. A good method to go by is to touch the back of the hand with the end of the wick. If the wick is damp it will feel cool. If it is dry and needs water, it will feel warm.

2- Since all plants do not require the same amount of water, it is necessary to check the plants at least twice each week.

3- Fill the containers to the top of the post on which the pots rest with warm water.

4- Let the soil dry out to a certain degree between waterings. This allows the air to penetrate and aerate the soil. It would be fine if one could gauge the time just right; namely, just before the leaves wilt.

5- The wick should extend to the bottom of the container.



Double Duchess

Blue Boy

Viking

6- Feed plants about once each month with your favorite plant food. Feed during the fall, winter, and spring months. Do not feed sick plants because they cannot take extra food at this time.

7- When plants are resting or out of bloom, water about once each week very sparingly. Fill the containers about ½ full. Keep these plants on the dry side being careful not to let them become too dry.

8- Mr. More says, "Baby plants can be potted into 4" Wik-Fed pots". They may be left in these pots for two years. It is not necessary to repot them sooner unless you wish to divide a multiple crown plant. This division should not be made during hot weather.

In short, watering is the important factor in raising healthy plants with large and bountiful blossoms. Mr. More has proven this by his years of experience in growing our favorite house plant, the African violet, in Wik-Fed pots.

Turn Them for Beauty

Martha Mears, Ind.

To have a beautiful symmetrical violet plant that one is proud to show to friends or to enter in a flower show is not too difficult an undertaking once a few simple rules are observed. One of the rules that must be followed systematically is the turning of the container in which the violet is planted. A good way to do this and to know that you have not forgotten, is to turn the pot one quarter turn on the table or window sill each time that you water the violet, being sure to turn in the same direction each time. This will keep your foliage flat and even, otherwise the leaves will grow to the light causing the plant to be one sided.

One should also try to avoid curled leaves. On a healthy plant free from disease and insects, this is generally caused by too much light. This is a problem that I believe each person will have to work out by himself as no two homes are situated alike, some being close to other buildings and close to trees, while others are in open country. Try moving your violet to different windows in your home or shading the plant some until you have overcome this difficulty. Sometimes they will grow beautifully in sunny windows with just lace curtains to shade them.

When once the right window is found, leave the violet there. With turning and proper feeding, it will grow into a plant of which you will surely be proud. So — turn them for beauty!

This violet-filled window and the propagation box occupy a corner of the bedroom.

Mrs. Turney and a corner of her living room. Some of her seedlings occupy the small table at the front.

Speaking of Violets

Ethel Buzzard, Cowden, Ill.

Mrs. W. G. Turney's love of flowers has won friends for her in many circles outside her home town of Shelbyville, Illinois. But of all the flowers, the African violet seems to be her choice. And nearest her heart are the violets she has raised from seed, seed she has produced herself.

Mrs. Turney was cross pollinating some plants when we arrived. She pinched off a blossom from a Blue Girl and folded back the pedals to form a base. Then with a needle she slit the anther and touched it to the pistil of a White Queen. "I usually pollinate only two pistils of a plant," she explained. "With just two seed pods to develop, the plant can go right on blooming as usual."

We wondered how long it would be before she could be sure the pollination had "taken". Then Mrs. Turney really warmed up to her subject. She told us the seed pod would begin to enlarge ever so slightly in about two weeks if her efforts were to be successful. Then the pistil would curl down and seemingly try to hide under a leaf and in about nine months the seed would mature.

Mrs. Turney unfolded a paper. "Here are some seeds that have just matured." We gazed at the tiny black specks and wondered. She pointed to a collection of plants on a small table and told us she had raised all of them from seed.

The seeds had been planted one September and the first plant peeped through the ground in November. They kept coming up at intervals all the following summer, she informed us. There were three different shades of orchid and several shades of blue and white blossoms.

"Those various shades all came from one seed pod," said Mrs. Turney. When we wondered about the sturdiness of such

plants, she told us that plants raised from seed are free from disease. "And people are always anxious to buy them," she added.

But Mrs. Turney was quick to emphasize that she never ships any plants. She sells only to persons who call for them at the house. Even at that she says the "grapevine trade" is quite extensive. One day a woman from Alabama who was passing through Shelbyville, stopped to buy some plants. Another day, it was a customer from Arizona.

Mrs. Turney smiled. "You never know how many delightful friendships an African violet will make for you."

About this time Dr. Turney joined us. When we marveled at the numerous plants filling the windows of their living room, the doctor said, "Oh, she has them like this all over the house, upstairs and down. Just how many plants have you, Nelle?"

Mrs. Turney had counted her plants that morning. She said there were exactly 969. That count, she explained, did not include the small plants in the propagation boxes. Then she added hastily, "I forgot. I sold two this morning so now I have only 967; and there are 96 varieties in the collection."

We told her she must be a flower-pot salesman's delight. "Oh, yes," chimed in the doctor. "She buys flower-pots by the case."

With Mrs. Turney and the African violet it was a case of love at first sight. While on a visit to the state capitol several years ago, she saw for the first time some of these lovely plants. Before leaving, one of them was hers. By the time she reached home her enthusiasm had increased to such an extent that she ordered twenty dollars worth of leaves. And in all that lot only one leaf was a casualty.

The Turneys are great flower lovers. They have a beautiful outdoor garden and Mrs. Turney is now bringing bits of it into the house to add a touch of contrast to the violets. She showed us some interesting pictures she had made of pressed flowers. One picture was made of white statice on a rose background; another was yellow and orchid mums with dragonhead on a black background; still another was fern leaves combined with snow-on-the-mountain. All were in antique frames. Later, she plans to make a tray decoration of fern and smartweed.

But when Mrs. Turney turned toward the window she said, "There is nothing that takes the place of the African violets."

UNINVITED GUESTS

Like SAINTPAULIAS Too

Mrs. Leon A. Bardo of Lowville, Lewis County, New York, reports that she does not have room for her young plants in the lower part of her house, so keeps them in a guest room on the second floor.

Recently Mrs. Bardo carefully placed twenty-five plants in individual pots and carried them to the guest chamber, and from day to day watched them thrive and grow. One morning early she went into the room to inquire as to the comfort of her "guests" and to inquire if they would like a little more air, light, or possibly a drink of water. Alas and alack! Something had happened to her guests during the night! She was amazed to find that some had been chewed, others completely eaten, some pulled completely out of the soil, while others had small holes dug around them. Who or what could have treated her guests in such an inhospitable fashion? Why had she not heard this intruder? Why had he molested her guests - who had never harmed anyone? Could it have been an "inside" job? There was only one way to find out. Yes, a trap was set and the thief caught, and it was not necessary to call in Sherlock Holmes. A hungry mouse had demonstrated that he too liked Saintpaulias.

P.S. This same incident occurred a second time. Could it be that this inherent love for these plants was handed down from father to son or from mother to daughter?

ORIGIN OF VIOLETS

I know, blue modest violets,
Gleaming with dew at morn--
I know the place you come from,
And the way that you were born!

When God cut holes in Heaven,
The holes the stars look thru,
He let the scraps fall down to earth--
The little scraps are you.

--Author unknown

Sent in by Evelyn B. Whitson who has had it in her poem collection for many years.

OPEN - - -

the door RICHARD ! !

Daisy Jones, Tenn.

In unison, we speak these very words to you today, Richard, since you have been awarded the research fellowship on Saintpaulias recently given by the African Violet Society of America, Inc. We hope that your year of research will bring to light many interesting things about African violets, their habits of growth, their likes and dislikes.

Every true lover of African violets will be interested to know about the background that Mr. Stinson has for this kind of work.

Richard F. Stinson was born in Cleveland, Ohio, February 4, 1921. He received a B. S. degree from the Ohio State University in 1943. He entered active duty in the Naval Reserve in 1943, received an Ensign's commission in the same year, two years were spent on a mine sweeper in the Pacific. He was promoted to lieutenant junior grade in 1944, and was placed on inactive duty in 1946.

Mr. Stinson then returned to Ohio State University in 1946 and left with a M. S. degree in 1947. He then taught one year at New York State Agricultural and Technical Institute at Alfred, N. Y. In 1948, he accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Floriculture at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn. Here he was engaged in teaching and research and is now on a one year leave of absence from that institution to complete part of the requirements for the degree of doctor of philosophy.

We feel sure that the African Violet Fellowship may mean wonderful things in the development of these popular indoor plants. Mr. Stinson has the best wishes of all of the National African Violet club members.

Progress Report on the Research Work with Saintpaulias

December, 1950

RICHARD STINSON, OHIO

The following six experiments are now in progress at the Ohio State University:

1. The effects of various light intensities upon flower bud formation (initiation) and development.
2. The effect of several temperatures upon growth and flower development.
3. The effect of artificial light upon plant growth and flower development.
4. The effect of varying nutrition, organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen, and soil pH upon the growth and flowering of Saintpaulia.
5. The effect of various soil mixtures upon the growth and flowering of Saintpaulia.
6. A comparison of growth and flowering in constant level and hand watering methods.

Most of these experiments were begun in mid-September and the slight differences that have been observed so far are not considered conclusive. However, some details of how these experiments have been set up may be of interest.

Experiment 1. The effect of various light intensities upon flower bud initiation and development.

Seven cloth-covered boxes with the following maximum light intensities in foot-candles are being used: 100, 300, 500, 700, 900, 1100, 1300. Plant samples of the variety Mentor Boy are being taken weekly for microscopical examination to determine the maximum light intensity under which flower buds are initiated and developed. Four other varieties that are being grown for visual comparison in this test are: Pink Girl, Redhead Girl, White Lady, and Amethyst Amazon. It is hoped that this experiment will determine the favorable and unfavorable light conditions for flower bud initiation and development.

Experiment 2. The effect of several temperatures upon growth and flower development.

This experiment is designed to determine the response of this plant when grown at temperatures above those used in commercial production. In this experiment three boxes enclosed with a clear plastic cloth are being used. Two are equipped with automatic heating cables and ventilating devices to maintain constant temperatures within. One of these boxes is being maintained at 80° F. and the other box at 70° F. The third box is under the usual greenhouse conditions (60° F. night temperature). The varieties being grown in each treatment are Mentor Boy, Pink Girl, Redhead Girl, White Lady, and Amethyst Amazon.

Experiment 3. The effect of artificial light upon growth and flower development.

Numerous amateurs have reported favorably in attempts to grow this plant under artificial light. This experiment is designed to repeat their experiments under more exactly known conditions. This experiment is being conducted in the basement of a building near the University Greenhouses, where there is no sunlight, at a temperature of 65° F. The varieties being used in each treatment are Mentor Boy, Pink Girl, Redhead Girl, White Lady, and Amethyst Amazon. Forty watt fluorescent tubes are being used in all treatments except one where 100 watt incandescent lamps are being used. The treatments are as follows:

Daylight tubes	100 foot-candles
Daylight tubes	200 foot-candles
Daylight tubes	300 foot-candles
White tubes	300 foot-candles
Blue tubes	300 foot-candles
Gold tubes	300 foot-candles
Incandescent lamps	300 foot-candles

Experiment 4. The effect of varying nutrition, organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen, and soil pH upon the growth and flowering of Saintpaulia.

The purpose of this experiment is to determine the optimum nutrient levels for this plant and to compare the effects of organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen upon the growth of this plant. The variety Mentor Boy is being grown under nutrient conditions shown in the following table:

Soil pH	Nitrate level in parts per million	Potash level in parts per million	Calcium level in parts per million	Object of Test
6.5	5-10	20	150	Optimum nitrate level using blood (organic) nitrogen
6.5	10-25	20	150	
6.5	25-50	20	150	
6.5	5-10	20	150	Optimum nitrate level using ammonium sulfate (inorganic) nitrogen
6.5	10-25	20	150	
6.5	25-50	20	150	
6.5	10-25	5-10	150	Optimum potash level using potassium chloride with inorganic nitrogen
6.5	10-25	10-20	150	
6.5	10-25	20-40	150	
6.5	10-25	20	40-100	Optimum calcium level using calcium sulfate (gypsum) with inorganic nitrogen
6.5	10-25	20	100-150	
6.5	10-25	20	150+	
4.5	10-25	20	150	Optimum pH value with inorganic nitrogen at pH 6.5 as check
5.5	10-25	20	150	
7.5	10-25	20	150	

Experiment 5. The effect of various soil mixtures upon the growth and flowering of Saintpaulia.

The variety Mentor Boy is being grown in the following soil mixtures to determine which is best:

silt only
1 part silt, 1 sand
1 part silt, 1 well rotted manure
1 part silt, 1 leafmold
1 part silt, 1 Vitaloam (a black muck)
1 part silt, 1 Moats (decomposed cotton waste)
1 part silt, 1 sand, 2 well rotted manure
1 part silt, 1 sand, 2 leafmold
1 part silt, 1 sand, 2 Vitaloam
1 part silt, 1 sand, 2 Moats

Experiment 6. A comparison of growth and flowering in constant level and hand watering methods.

It has been claimed that Saintpaulia plants mature most rapidly when grown by the constant level method. This experiment has been set up to compare quality and speed of maturity under the two systems. There are two plots in this experiment. In one plot, a water level is continuously maintained at a certain place in sand upon which pots of Saintpaulia have been placed. Another plot of similar plants is being watered overhead by hand in the usual way. The varieties in these treatments are: Mentor Boy, Pink Girl, Redhead Girl, Amethyst Amazon, and White Lady.

Suggestions for Organization of a Local Society

Bess Hardy, Dayton, Ohio

HOW TO PROCEED

1. Discuss organizing a Society with those of similar interest in the African violet or saintpaulia. Explain the many desirable advantages which are offered by the national organization, and the real value to be gained from a local Society.

2. Distribute the small leaflets issued by African Violet Society of America, Inc. and let those interested examine a few copies of the quarterly publication.

3. Emphasize the advantages of the contacts offered by such group activities.

4. Explain benefits offered by the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Those with similar interests can work together harmoniously for the advancement of the African violet. Ask for the following:

A. Information folders.

B. Sample copies of the African Violet Magazine.

C. Applications for membership.

1. These will be furnished free on request to

African Violet Magazine, P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn.

5. Decide upon a date and place for first meeting.

6. Publicity is important. Get as much as possible.

A. Send out personal invitations

1. Letters or cards giving purpose, date, and place of meeting to all individuals interested in organizing a local society.

B. Contact local newspapers

1. They will be glad to assist with suitable notices and other write-ups.

C. Radio Stations

1. Garden programs will be cooperative in promoting your projects. They will give spot announcements or special features, if no garden program is scheduled.

7. Meeting place

A. Most new Societies hold their first meetings in private homes.

B. Later a regular meeting place may be secured.

C. A hall or public meeting place is best, if a large group is desired or anticipated.

MEETINGS

1. Contacts are essential

A. Nurserymen or horticultural departments from local schools and universities can furnish speakers for your meetings. Other African violet societies in vicinity which have already been organized will be willing to cooperate in building good programs.

B. Initial meeting should be attractive

1. Each meeting can be interesting, instructive and worthwhile.

C. Plant sales may be held to earn money to cover expenses of meetings or some special project —

1. Plants may be either purchased or donated by those attending.

2. Plants may be given as door prizes to stimulate interest.

D. A guest book is handy

1. It registers those attending initial meeting.

2. It is helpful in making contacts for future announcements.

E. Refreshments

1. These are optional and subject to wishes of the hostess.

2. They afford a good opportunity to mix, become better acquainted, and provide an opportunity to discuss your "pet violets" and other garden topics or problems.

FIRST MEETING

1. Select a temporary Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer among those present.

2. Organizer will explain

A. Purpose of meeting.

B. Benefits to be derived by forming a Society.

C. It will be desirable to relate a short history of the National Society and function of its many departments or resources.

3. Appoint a committee to draw up a constitution and by-laws for local Society

A. Sample copies of National Society constitution are available for study

1. It is suggested that this sample copy be followed as closely as possible.
2. There are many benefits from such a document.
3. Amendments may be added later to cover any necessary changes.

SECOND MEETING

1. Decide upon name for the Society.
2. Determine time and place for second meeting.
3. Appoint nominating committee.
4. Constitution and by-laws may be adopted.
5. Committees may be appointed.
6. Introduce speakers

A. Extend every courtesy to your speaker (whether paid or guest). Friendliness and hospitality are essential to success of future meetings.

B. Follow up meetings with a letter of thanks or appreciation from your secretary to the speaker.

7. Arrange for plant sale.
8. Adjourn meeting.
9. Draw door prize.
10. Serve refreshments

A. Informality of social hour is enjoyed by many people.

FUTURE MEETING

1. All members joining during first three meetings will be considered charter members.
2. Collect dues and issue receipts.
3. Call for reports.
4. Elect officers.
5. Arrange for main feature for following meeting.
6. Make announcements.
7. Carry out program as planned for this meeting.
8. Adjourn.
9. Draw door prize.
10. Serve refreshments

A. A friendly cup of tea can bring members closer together and make better relationships.

LIST OF COMMITTEES FOR A LOCAL SOCIETY

REGISTRATION: Keeps record book for registration of members and guests attending each meeting.

RECEPTION: Welcomes visitors and new members. Arranges introductions.

PROGRAM: Secures speakers, welcomes speakers, introduces them to the group.

DOOR PRIZE: Secures specimen plants for door prizes, sells tickets, conducts drawing for prizes.

MEMBERSHIP: Seeks new members.

TELEPHONE: Notifies members of meeting by card or telephone.

GOOD CHEER: Sends cards or flowers to members in case of illness.

HISTORIAN: Records important activities. Keeps scrapbook of all news items, pictures, etc., of Society.

REFRESHMENT: Serves refreshments.

LIBRARIAN: Keeps books and pamphlets for loan to members. Keeps accurate record of those loaned.

PUBLICITY: Reports to newspaper of activities of Society.

OTHERS:

REGULAR MEETING

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call meeting to order.
2. Minutes of previous meeting for approval.
3. Communications.
4. Introduction of guests.
5. Report of committees.
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Speakers or entertainment.
9. Displays, plant sale, refreshments.

SAMPLE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING

Westwood African Violet Society meets Tuesday Afternoon at 1:30 P.M.

HI-Grade Activity Center

Address - 3300 W. 3rd St., Dayton, Ohio

Speaker: Mrs. Arthur Radtke

Topic: "Film on African Violets"

Refreshments

_____

Secretary

H. G. Harvey, Program Chairman

THE PROGRAM

The program is luscious. We start off with a bang Thursday afternoon with a talk on "The Questions They Ask Me" by Professor Victor H. Ries, Extension Floriculturist of the Ohio State University. Professor Ries has been traveling the state of Ohio for a number of years, telling Ohioans how to grow flowers, and his answers have been tried in the fires of practical experience. He not only knows how to raise the flowers, but he has learned how to tell other people how to do it.

Mr. Ries is devoting his full time to healthy violets. He does not have to cut his discussion short to cover diseases. To cover the "Sick Violet" subject, two outstanding national authorities have consented to talk to us. Thursday evening, Dr. Freeman Weiss covers the subject "Root and Crown Rots and Other Fungous Diseases of African Violets." Dr. Weiss is not only one of the outstanding authorities of the United States on fungous plant diseases, but he is also an African violet amateur, so he approaches our fungous problems with authority and sympathy. On insect troubles, we have Dr. Floyd F. Smith, a Senior Pathologist of the United States Department of Agriculture. Dr. Smith's word carries great weight in any discussion of insect attacks on plants, and he can tell us more than any one else we could obtain about mealy bug, cyclamen mite and the other vexatious insect intruders that plague us.

These three talks, one on healthy violets and two on sick violets are a whole convention in themselves, but the lagniappe in as much or more. We have an opportunity to listen to five of the leading commercial growers of African violets in the United States talk among themselves about "Practical Methods of Cultivation and Shipping." Imagine sitting in on a conversation on this subject between Henry Peterson, Dale Ulery, Ruth Yoars, William Merkel, and Paul Rockelmann. That is what we are going to do Friday morning.

Friday night, Evan Roberts talks about the "Saintpaulia Species," giving us an over all picture of where this African violet business started, with the potentialities for its further development. Following him, we show a group of Kodachromes contributed by the leading hybridizers all over the country assembled under the title "What's New in Varieties," with Alma Wright as the narrator. So, before our eyes we have, in one meeting, the Alpha and the Omega (so far) of the entire African violet development. And both the Alpha and the Omega are presented by persons abundantly worth going a long way to listen to.

Saturday, Montague Free, Staff Horticulturist of The Home Garden Magazine and author of numerous garden books which practically all of us have read and enjoyed, rambles in his own inimitable way within the confines of the subject "A Horticulturist Looks at the Saintpaulia." Following him, Mr. Richard F. Stinson, who is the present holder of our African Violet Fellowship at the Ohio State University tells us "What We Don't Know About African Violets," and what he and the University are doing about it.

Then, finally, Saturday noon, Boyce M. Edens, one of our two Honorary Life Members, puts the cap sheaf on the convention and epitomizes the objectives of the Society, past present and future, in the valedictory talk of the convention; "Where Do We Go From Here?"

An Invitation to Dayton . . .

Nelle Berst, Convention Chairman

The advance planning which has been done on this 1951 National Convention is such as to permit me to assure all members that it will be the biggest and best ever held by the Society.

From the time the Convention opens, at 9:00 A.M., on Thursday, April 26, until you depart for home, you will find that every minute of this meeting has been planned with you in mind.

Our program has been carefully prepared with much thought and research, and we are happy to say that we were able to secure some of the most able speakers in the country, who will present their subject in a manner that will prove both instructive and entertaining. We have also given consideration to the time between sessions, so that you may have ample time to view the displays, of which there will be many, and which will include — rare and new specimens, many of which have never been exhibited before any group. Plenty of time will also be allowed for side trips, and sightseeing around the city.

I would like at this point to remind you that Dayton has much to offer its visitors in the way of variety. Whether your interests be centered in Art, History, Culture, Education, Industry, or Recreation, you are sure to find much to claim your attention.

We would like to suggest for your guidance some points of interest that should be included in your sightseeing trip around our city.

AVIATION - - - Dayton, the home of the Wright Brothers, inventors of the Airplane, has become the world mecca for those interested in aeronautical research, and the Air Material Command, located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, is the center of all Air Force procurement. Patterson Field is one of the largest flying fields in the world. The Dayton Municipal Airport, city owned, covers a tract of over 1,000 acres, and is located just 9 miles from the city, The original home of the Wright Brothers may be seen, as well as the home of the late Orville Wright.

SCHOOLS - - - The University of Dayton, an accredited university, is generally recognized as one of the best, and has an enrollment of students from all parts of the world. Bonbrake Seminary, a theological seminary, one of the largest, has always been of interest to visitors.

CULTURE - - - The Dayton Art Institute, one of the finest to be seen anywhere, offers something different and original in design and architecture. Being located on an elevated plot of ground overlooking the Miami River, and the downtown section of the city, it is the home of many fine paintings, sculpture, and hundreds of collectors items, gathered from all parts of the world. Open daily.

CULTURE - - - Dayton's "Old Courthouse," which is more than 100 years old, has been preserved because of its very rare and unusual design and architecture, and for years has claimed the attention of people all over the United States. Deeds Carilon Tower, located in a beautiful setting, offers daily concerts portraying the best in music. Our Public Library with its Museum of Natural History has much in store for the visitor.

ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION - - - Our theatres and hotels, located in the downtown shopping district, offer the very latest and best in entertainment, and for those interested in indoor or outdoor sports — golf courses and bowling alleys are located not far away.

These are some of the many interesting things you will find waiting for you when you arrive in Dayton. If you have any seedlings you would like to display, please see that they are forwarded, or bring them with you. We feel that our registration fee is nominal, and in keeping with current prices.

In conclusion I would like to remind you that you will find included in the literature you will receive, a hotel registration card. It is very important that you return this card to the hotel promptly, so that proper record and confirmation can be made. There will be ample hotel accomodations for all, but prompt advance registration will assure you of the accomodations you desire.

So until I have the pleasure of meeting you at the Convention, may I extend to you our most sincere welcome to Dayton, Ohio.

REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

NEIL C. MILLER

As was recognized to be inevitable from the start of Registration, the time was bound to come when most of the applications for registration would be for new varieties, still retained only in the originator's hands or having had only a very limited regional distribution. Under these conditions the amount of adverse opinion that could be expressed concerning newness or superiority of a variety on which registration was sought would be small. Such a status has apparently been reached, no opinions or objections have so far been received concerning any of the varieties published in the September or December, 1950, issues.

It can not be too strongly emphasized that the success of the registration plan as set up will depend largely on the extent to which people who are familiar with an applied-for variety express their opinion as to whether it is or it not different from other varieties or is an improvement over existing varieties.

So, if you are familiar, either by growing the plant or by having observed it, with any of the varieties published in this Report or in any of the preceding reports, won't you please drop us a line and let us have your opinion of it? Communications should be mailed to Chairman of Committee on Registration, Mr. Neil C. Miller, Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J.

PART I.

The following applications for registration were received in the period Oct. 1, 1950, to Jan. 1, 1951:

Blue Lady 9-18-50	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 2521 Howland Drive, Temple City, Cal.
Spoon Girl 9-18-50	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 2521 Howland Drive, Temple City, Cal.
Ranee 9-18-50	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 2521 Howland Drive, Temple City, Cal.
Gay Lark 9-20-50	Mrs. Preston Everett, R. D. 1, Box 378, New Kensington, Pa.
Soldier Boy 2-29-50	Mrs. Iva Montondo, R. D. 1, Mannsville, N. Y.
Radiant Shantilly 10-1-50	Mrs. P. H. Scully, 510 Kearney St., Laramie, Wyoming
Mrs. Emery 11-8-50	Mrs. A. B. Cooper, 4208 Decoursey, Covington, Ky.
Darling 11-25-50	Mrs. R. L. Welton, Meridian, Kansas
Salem Maiden 11-27-50	Mrs. Jessie M. Lewis, 323 Morrison Avenue, Council Bluffs, Iowa
Lavender Afterglow 12-4-50	Miss Florence Ellevia Yocum R. F. D. 1, Muncy, Pa.
Beverly 12-9-50	Mrs. Evalyn E. Hall, 1865 7th Avenue, Sacramento 18, Cal.
Bonita 12-9-50	Mrs. Evalyn E. Hall, 1865 7th Avenue, Sacramento 18, Cal.
Joel's Delight 12-19-50	Mrs. Ted Hanusa, 34 Orchard Avenue, Salem, N. J.
Dorlene 12-28-50	Mrs. Genevieve Marsh, 4074 Bluff Place, San Pedro, Cal.
My Love 12-30-50	Mrs. E. J. Housen, 217 8th St., Baraboo, Wisc.
Nyla Jean 12-29-50	Mrs. E. J. Housen, 217 8th St., Baraboo, Wisc.
Purple Shadows 12-29-50	Mrs. E. J. Housen, 217 8th St., Baraboo, Wisc.

PART II.

The following four applications have also been received. Some question as to registerability appears for each one, but there seems to be no good reason for withholding publication while these questions are run down, so they are being published so Society membership may have an opportunity to express its opinion concerning them.

In each of these applications, the point at question is the name. And, with one exception, the question involves not these plants, but the right of some other previously named plant to carry one of these names or some slight variation as an, apparently, regional alternate name. If the previous applications of these names cannot be properly cleared it may become necessary to refuse registration to these names.

Diane	Mrs. Clarence C. Anderson, 2459 Larimore Avenue, Omaha 11, Nebr.
White Orchid	Mrs. Vernon R. Gould, Box 128, Greene, N. Y.
Lois	Mrs. O. C. Williamson, Box 268A, Route 9, Charlotte, N. C.
Pink Lace	Mrs. Frank Vernon, 3912 Trimble Road, Nashville, Tenn.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

BOYCE M. EDENS, GA.

This question is uppermost in the minds of everybody in African Violetdom, including old timers like me. What about the future of our favorite houseplant, the African violet (saintpaulia)? "Tell us in definite, concrete terms," they are saying, "whether the present well-known varieties are about all that we can expect?" Or, "Are there numbers of new ones for us in the offing?"

These questions can now be answered in no uncertain terms. You just haven't seen anything yet! Just wait until you pop your violet-hungry eyes on some of the new ones that are being tested and groomed by the experts behind the scenes. I have seen many of these new ones and I think they are really magnificent, and it is time to pull the curtain of uncertainty aside for a glimpse of a few of the greatly improved ones that you can have for your very own later on. I say a few, because to describe them all in full detail would fill an extra issue of the Magazine and then some.

Last Fall, I journeyed to East Lansing, Michigan, to attend the Fifth Congress of American Horticulture that was meeting at Michigan State College, and to represent the Society at this meeting where the standardization of colors and the establishment of a practical, usable color chart were being considered. After the meeting, I decided to do a little African violet sightseeing en route home, so I stopped off to see the Ulery Greenhouses in Springfield, Ohio.

As I walked up and down between the benches with Dale Ulery, I was amazed by the many different color tones and tints of the new creations among the African violets that he has produced by hybridization during the past six years. There were new and distinctive doubles and singles in solid colors, pastels, bi-colors, stripes, dotted ones, etc. Here, spread out before me in richest array were literally dozens of new and different hybrids, none of which I had seen before. Yes, they are new, and they are different in many ways from those older varieties with which we are already familiar.

For the purpose of briefly describing many of these hybrids, most of them rather naturally fall into three categories. (1) Those with Blue Girl or 'Girl' type of foliage, ranging in color from medium dark-bronze green leaves that have rosy colored undersides, to light green on both sides. (2) Those with round and heart-shaped foliage of the Dupont or quilted type. (3) Those with a somewhat smooth, oval or ovate foliage, with leaves that range from light green on both sides to dark green with rosy colored undersides.

In the first category there are a number of different types of bloom with pure white background striped with various shades of blue and violet, and also some whose bloom is edged with shades of blue and violet. Some are extremely light blue pastel blends that range from the lightest blue to pure crystalline white, such as the variety White Girl. These new 'Girl' types are especially beautiful and attractive.

In the second category are a number of improved types of solid medium and light blue and violet shades that are also especially appealing. Exceptionally fine is a bi-color with real light lavender-pink lower petals set off with rather dark red-violet upper petals. There is also a rather distinctive type with blooms of light lavender-pink background that are splashed, striped and otherwise marked with darker lavender-pink . . . no two blooms appeared to be marked alike. I think that these new splashed types, such as the variety Fantasy, should be typed as amoenas.

The third category contains numerous new and improved types, both doubles and singles, almost too numerous to mention. Especially noteworthy in this category are many fine doubles. A number of these doubles have bloom with a nearly pure white background, and others have a pure white background mingled with light blue, and still others have light blue and medium light blue centers or eyes. The arrangement, or design of the blue centers or eyes, seems to differ somewhat. Then, there are several doubles with medium light lavender-pink markings off center, and still others with edging of light and medium light lavender pink. Then, there are still others that have light blue and medium light blue and orchid backgrounds without markings.

The singles in this third category are certainly not to be overlooked. An outstanding new one is an excellent dark-complected true pink. It has dark green leaves with rosy undersides, and its bloom comes nearer being a true medium dark pink than any I have seen heretofore. It is unlike the well-known Pink Beauty and I think it can be freely predicted that it will be popular with all lovers of pink varieties of African violets.

It is reasonable to expect that so experienced and discriminating hybridist of

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The Homing Pigeon

(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

VACATION TIPS

Here are a couple of vacation tips for taking care of your African violets: (1) Fold newspapers in the bathtub to a depth of about 6 inches. Let the water run until they are thoroughly saturated. Set the plants on top of papers. After a month the plants looked better than before. (2) Place bricks in tub, fill the tub to top of bricks with water-set plants on bricks.

Mrs. Pearl Spink, Calif., Unit 104

I'm all for cutting down cost of operations, so maybe you will be interested in a simple and very cheap way of getting the same effect as wick watering which I use on a few of my plants with success. I use burlap strings such as come tied on potato sacks and the like. I insert a piece in bottom of violet pot, setting this in another container holding water, allowing the end to fall into the water and, presto! - my plant gets its water supply and does fine.

Florence Allen, Ohio, Unit 43

A BIT OF THIS AND THAT

I have found that if you rinse your milk bottles and throw the water away you are wasting a good bit of food that would be good for African violets. So when the bottle is empty, fill it with very warm water, this will look cloudy, and use it to water your violets. It is

VIOLET BERRY

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

It is with regret that we say goodbye to Violet Berry as the Pigeon News Editor. She has served faithfully and efficiently, and to her go our earnest thanks for the service she has so willingly rendered during the past year. The Pigeon News column has been a veritable store house of interesting and helpful information for all to read and learn from.

Helen Pochurek, 14225 McCracken Rd., Cleveland 5, Ohio is your new News Editor. Welcome Helen! ! It is a pleasure to have you as a member of the magazine staff.

— Editor

especially good for seedlings. The milk solution helps to combat fungus or damping off. This is proven and not just an experiment. I have also found that the African violet likes sitting on moist sand very much. This also facilitates easier watering and less often.

Mrs. M. Eckhardt, Md., Unit 111

I find a Holmspray, throat and nasal atomizer, ideal for my plants. The long slender nozzle gets in the tiniest crowns, and gives a complete and gentle spray.

Dorothy Hamblin, N. J.

Neptunes Rex sprouted from a leaf of Ionantha Grandiflora and was one of five sports, three were very dark Amethyst type leaves and purple blossoms. Neptunes Rex is a very profuse bloomer -- very similar to Neptune Supreme. If you are interested in red backs to the leaves -- try this: filter the light thru Celloglass and wax paper, the light MUST be strong but NOT hot. What happens to light under these conditions, I don't know, but it works.

Adelaide Aldridge, Calif., Unit 5

I notice a recommendation of fertilizer ONLY ONCE a month, and by others in rotation of weeks. If we consider Nature, it does not feed this way, so I prefer to use a weak fertilizer every watering as long as growth and flowering are good. If flowering stops, then no food at all and heavy top watering with no water standing in dish. If it still balks, unpot it, wash away soil and repot deeper, cut-

ting off old outer leaves. When a very young leaf develops -- its cells are laid down in adaptation to the light. It is too late later on for it to change. Hence a plant shifted into stronger light suffers as to its present leaves, but as new leaves come on they tolerate the greater light well. Lesson is to keep growing plants in good light even before they are large enough to flower.

Roswell Johnson, Calif., Unit 17

I've learned to spoon the soil mixture around the newly potted plant lightly, and never, never press it down. I wash the dirt in around the roots by slowly pouring warm water around the sides of the pot. Then leave the pot sitting in warm water for about an hour before taking it out to drain. I set the newly potted plant away from the brighest light for a few days -- and gradually get it back in its old place. These methods may not be according to the experts, but my violets do grow and bloom!

Irene Russell, N. C., Unit 46

A new hint I heard the other day was to wrap the end of a leaf cutting loosely with a small bit of cotton and then plant. This supposedly holds the moisture and favors quicker rooting. You try it and report on it.

Pigeon Ed.

And here is something I do -- winter and summer. At sunshiny windows, I keep ordinary window screening over the outside of the windows, whether I open the window or not. This cuts the hot sun rays and leaves and blooms will not become sunburned.

Pigeon Ed.

I use wax containers that cottage cheese comes in to plant special leaves and suckers that have no roots which I want to grow. I fill it about half full with either vermiculite or equal parts of peat moss and vermiculite. These containers protect the leaf without damaging it. Also I am using "Glass Cloth" to cover my flats instead of a glass. No breakage and as far as I can see it is just as good for plants.

Mrs. M. H. McMahon, Ohio, Unit 24

I soak all new clay pots for eight hours before using. I also dampen potting soil until a handful will ball up and crumble apart at a touch. I use Frosty bar sticks for labels and always put repotting date on it.

Mrs. Wm. E. May, Tenn., Unit 24

I dip all tops of new clay pots in ½ inch melted paraffin to prevent petiole rot. Mrs. C. B. Redmon, Ill., Unit 24

GLADYS CANNER

Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

If you wish to join a group, or if you wish to withdraw from one, please communicate with Mrs. Canner.

I use lime water for black flies. One teaspoon to one quart of hot water. Water with as hot water as possible. Flies disappear in no time.

Mrs. Benjamin Ostalski, N. Y., Unit 24

To keep the names of leaves that are rooting in water, tie loosely a small piece of a different color of string or thread on each variety at the base of the leaf and then draw the end up over the leaf. Write with wax pencil the name of the leaf and the color of the string on a label and paste on the container. When the leaf is transferred to the terrarium, write it on that label.

Cora P. Schultz, Pa., Director of Unit 24

I am teaching school, have a third and fourth grade combination of 21 pupils. It is a nice group of children. Of course we are growing violets in our room. I carried a leaf for each child. They brought little glasses and waxed paper to cover the glasses, so we put the leaves in water and then talked about where the African violet was first found and how it got to this country. The children enjoyed studying the globe of the world and finding South Africa. When the roots and little plants began to come up, we had a science lesson on our little plants, which they could examine through the glasses. We have painted flower pots and they are all dry and ready to use. Now we are preparing our soil. Each child has brought a bag of rich soil. We got some sharp sand from the school yard and I have carried them a bag of terra-lite and a pot of bone-meal to add to the mixture. Next week we will bake the soil in one of the school ovens. Each child has already gathered small pebbles to put in his flower pot for good drainage. We had a good lesson on "fractions" when we prepared our violet soil -- so you see, I am getting in some practical teaching as well as having fun with our African Violet Project. The children are becoming Afri-

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THE GRAPEVINE

(Strictly from the Rumor Dept. — Editor)

R. E. Memberthis

Mrs. St. John was interrupted in her potting of the five babies from the leaf of McFarland's Blue Warrior by a knock at the front door.

" I hear you have Blue Eyes Supreme."

"Mrs. Chatterton. Nice to have you back. Yes, I have the Blue Eyes Supreme. Saw it at the convention and just had to have it. Frank and Anne were so sweet to let me have such a lovely specimen. Of course, I simply had to put down a few leaves as soon as I got home with it. Doesn't do the commercials any good I know for all of us little people to be raising their pet plants but then I cannot afford such an expensive hobby and it has to pay its way. So - - - Won't you come in?"

Mrs. Chatterton did, and after a time raved about the Blue Eyes Supreme but was disappointed with the babies as they were "so small." However, she selected one after five minutes haggling - during which Mrs. St. John would not bulge from her first-asked-price of fifty-cents. There then followed two hours of drooling, condemning all the Orchid Beauties under its various names, several acquaintances who were "outrageous with their prices" or "secretive about where they received this and that." Then Mrs. Chatterton took her leave with "I don't know why I come back here. Everything I ever got from you died for me."

Several weeks later Mrs. Chatterton's Pigeon arrived, and after an hour's reading, she took up her pen and a ream of paper to add her letter.

Dear Pigeonites:

This was followed by half a page as to why she was not able to get to the Pigeon when it arrived - ignoring completely the fact that it had been dropped into her letter slot only an hour ago and not four days ago as she hinted. Then:-

"I was so sorry, Anne, to hear about your fallen arches and broken leg.

Mary:- Sorry to hear about the death of your father. My sympathies, and all that. But God takes whom God loves.

Sallie:- It must be nice to have a Cocker Spaniel with eight pups. Lucky you. Think of all the money you will make on them.

I simply must tell you about a plant of Blue Eyes Supreme that I bought recently from Mrs. St. John. It died. I don't know why, but everything I buy from her dies in a week or two."

Four pages later Mrs. Chatterton ended her letter for the Pigeon with this remark - "Sorry I do not have time to comment on the 'Topic for Discussion' " and signed it "Violetly yours - Ima Chatterton."

Ada Mae Story next received the Pigeon and in the course of writing her letter mentioned the fact that she had received the loveliest "Rose from Tennessee" and added, "I don't know what it is, as it arrived as a gift with an order I had placed. The leaves are a lovely dark green and so shiny. One of the most beautiful things in my collection of 273 varieties. Does any one know where I can find Alma's Blue? I simply must have it. Lotta Lipp told me about it in Pigeon No. 375 and said that it 'was out of this world'."

"Do you suppose that Mrs. St. John could have nematodes? They are perfectly awful, I understand. A friend of mine got them from the Haywire Greenhouse, or was it cyclamen mite? Anyway, she lost her entire collection." (The fact that a "friend" had been where there was a case of cyclamen mite and after "pawing" the entire collection had returned and petted her own plants, had nothing to do with the matter.) "One never gets rid of them and they still show up generations and generations later - even from leaf cuttings. If this is the case, your entire collection is probably in danger."

Next on the list to receive the Pigeon was Ernest Blowhard who happened to have his Pigeon No. 300 in at the same time - so - while writing his letter for "323", just happened to mention:-

"Did you know that Mrs. St. John had nematodes in her collection and that she passed them out, clean across the country? Poor Ima Chatterton lost her entire collection because of one plant that she bought there. There simply should be a law against all

these 'would be commercials' from selling plants hither and yon. By the way I have quite a supply of my own Blowhard's Un-known, in case any of you are interested. The plant originally came from Podunk, but no one seems to know what it is so I call it 'Un-known'. It really is beautiful. Just like Commodore - only different. I wonder what Ada Mae Story's Rose of Tennessee can be?"

One could go on with the minute, devilish and devious route and developments that finally brought about the conclusion of this narrative . . . One cou'd point out the evil of suggestion; the unconscious misconstruing of ideas; the association of similar happenings; the petty jealousies - real, or imagined - that went into the prompting of this tale. However, all this is unnecessary, for the conclusion speaks for itself. One careless misspelling of a word creates a new saintpaulia variety; one careless word ruins a conscientious and meticulous commercial.

The conclusions, as afore-said, speak for themselves. The lady in Tennessee, with a house full of Plum Satins, made a fortune selling leaves of Tennessee Rose at seventy-five cents apiece and small plants at $2.00 each. Only to retire and spend her old age raising Camellias. The recipients of her sales in later years found chagrin in the fact that they have had Tennessee Rose for a long time under the simple name of Plum Satin, or Mauve, or half a dozen other names. They, in turn, blamed the lady from Tennessee and never realized that it was their own insistant demands that made them prey to hoaxes and seemingly down-right deceit.

Mrs. St. John wondered why she did not sell a plant for months and, because of her weakness to put down a leaf, found her house over-burdened with more plants than she could care for - or enjoy. Out of desperation she placed an ad in the African Violet Magazine; in reply to which she received three inquiries "Have you gotten rid of your nematodes?" Her own Pigeon upon one of its flights six months later contained nine letters of advice on "How to get rid of nematodes." In desperation, she finally resorted to selling the prime of her blooming collection to a group of local florists for fifty cents apiece. The florists, in turn, sold the plants, receiving as recompense $2.50 to $3.00 and never a single complaint as to the health of any of them.

The fact that Mrs. Chatterton "had to" repot all of her new purchases into her own soil mixture - composed strictly of worm castings, rare cow manure, peat moss and quantities of 5-10-5 commercial fertilizer, had nothing what-so-ever to do with the subject. Mrs. Chatterton, when she lost thirty of her own plants - in the same mixture - undoubtedly placed the blame on "Root-rot" and not nematodes. The fact that her own private "mixture" was too "hot" and too rich was entirely a different matter!

The "grapevine" could, and should, be a means of spreading good tidings, i.e. the advising of the availability of good, new and recognized varieties; the absolute dependability of this fertilizer or that insecticide; the quality packing and plants of a certain commercial; the discussion of a duplication or inferior variety. It should not be the medium of unintentional misconstructions; targets for libel suits; or a playground for plain, down-right unadulterated mischief.

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" is still the best law, or rule, thought up by God or man.

Don't Take Chances!
PROTECT THOSE PRECIOUS VIOLETS

KAPSULATE - Means Sodium Selenate in Capsules by KAPCO. In a safer form to control mite on African violets.

Kills Insects Thru the Soil
Also used on other houseplants

18 capsules $1.25

NuPHOS-K is a soluble 15-30-15 complete plant food for liquid feeding.

7 ounces 49¢

Use KAPSULATE every 3 months for insect control.

Feed NuPHOS-K every 2 weeks for vigorous plant growth.

Both KAPSULATE and NuPHOS-K for $1.49.

KELLY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS CO.
603 Walnut Street
McKEESPORT, PENNA.

QUESTION BOX

LAURETTA L. LITTIG 3016 Jefferson Ave. Davenport, Iowa

When sending in your questions, don't forget to give your address. I have received letters with no address, and one with no signature. So, if you haven't had a reply, write me again and I shall be glad to answer your question.

QUESTIONS

What makes a "wobbly" plant? I have a plant that reminds me of a tumble weed —looks like a whiff of wind would blow it right out of the pot. The plant doesn't seem to grow, although it looks healthy otherwise. The main stem doesn't seem strong enough to hold the plant up.

Mrs. James Easson, Kans.

Is it possible to get a pink violet when propagating a leaf from a purple violet? A man told me he had only two violet plants, both purple. He started a leaf from one of these plants, from which he says he got a pink violet.

Mrs. Ann Stutko, Mo.

Two of my double violets, also a single purple one, had good healthy foliage, and were blooming nicely. When I looked at them last night, they were fine. This morning, I found a leaf on the table, and three blossoms had no petals, only the yellow centers. The stem of another leaf was nearly eaten through. On another plant, the tip of a leaf hanging over the side of the pot had been eaten on the edge. Some leaves had tiny holes eaten in them. What kind of an insect could have done this, and what should I do? My plants are on a table with metal legs.

Mrs. F. E. Peterson, Mont.

What is an ideal specimen plant for a Flower Show? Is it considered proper to have more than one crown?

D. Ryan, Iowa

Is it best to turn the violet plant every few days? I have been told it is better for the plant not to turn it but to let it face one direction. Is it natural for them to blossom all the time, as some people say, or should they have a rest period?

Mrs. E. Fischer, no address

Please tell me what to do about suckers on a plant. I usually take them off while they are small. Now I notice one of my big plants is loaded with nice blossoms, and I am at a loss to know whether to repot and take off these suckers and start new plants or to wait until it stops blooming. I have been told these suckers will never bloom on the plant, but will form new plants if potted.

Mrs. Clara Van Vranken, N. Y.

ANSWERS

Lice On Plants

To Mrs. Homer Willis, Pa.

I, too, tried all the known remedies for lice on violets with no success. In desperation, I used "Knox It," an insecticide powder containing 10% D. D. T. This proved to be effective. I dusted the whole plant thoroughly and left the powder on for two weeks. Then I washed it off and no lice returned. I think any powder that contains 10% D. D. T. would be all right.

F. Louise Pearsall, N. Y.

Tiny Flies—Drops of Water

To Rosamond V. Earnest, Tenn.

The tiny flies which come up from your soil are probably due to unsterilized fertilizer in your soil. Pulverized sheep manure is often the cause of these flies or gnats. In damp or cool weather, violets are inclined to have drops of water form on the edge of the leaf. It is called "weeping" and is not caused by the flies.

For your tiny flies, water with N. N. O. R. spray solution early in the morning as often as your plants need water. Do this for about a month.

Mrs. B. A. Anderton, Tenn.

Lady Geneva

To Mrs. Freda Binne, Ohio

When I received my "Lady Geneva" in the mail, it had a few small blossoms with a dim white border. I was told to keep it away from direct light and in a cool place. I put it in a north window back of the other plants. It is now blooming again and is really beautiful. The flowers are large with distinct white edges. All the leaves I have propagated have the white border on the flowers, but I have been told that some of them do not.

H. Hunt, Iowa

Variegated Leaves

To Richard White, Mass.

The white streaks on your leaves could be caused from watering with too cool water or watering when the plant was too near the window in cold weather, even

though the water didn't touch the leaves. this has happened to several of my plants. On the other hand you might have a plant with variegated leaves. Sometimes half of the leaf is white and the other half streaked with green. I saw a large variegated plant the other day with a lot of blossoms. It was very pretty and quite unusual looking.

Mrs. E. Carlson, Ill.

Mildew on Plants

To Mrs. Ruth W. Brown, Ind.

Mildew often occurs in damp, muggy weather, also when plants are watered at night from the top and allowed to remain wet in cool weather. Pick off stems very carefully that have it, and destroy. It can spread by careless handling, by the spores that are carriers of mildew. Dusting sulphur around the top of the soil and in among the leaves will help.

Helen Pochurek, Ohio

Plantlets on Flower Stems

To Mrs. Roy Spring, Ohio

You have what is often referred to as a hanging basket plant. I have several that are doing the same thing. One has about six plants hanging around the edge of the pot. Place a rim of aluminum foil around the pot, or they may rot off where they touch the pot. If treated with care, these little plants will often throw out another runner from the first. Mine have done this and now have buds on the second little plant.

Helen Pochurek, Ohio

Wilted Leaves

To Mrs. Mabel Weaver, Pa.

There are several different things that cause the leaves to soften or wilt. I distinguish them as root rot, crown rot, and stem rot. With root rot, the roots just rot away until there is no means by which sap can get up to the leaves. This comes on rather slowly. The leaves wilt a little, then more until the whole plant finally dies. Crown rot comes on suddenly, the plant wilting all over, and the top just comes off in your hands. The stem or crown has rotted off between the leaves and roots. In the early stages, the top of the plant is wobbly. Your instinct is to push the soil up around the crown to make it firm in the pot—and that is the wrong thing to do. In leaf rot, when you pull the wilted leaf, it comes right off, as it has rotted at the base of the petiole. This is generally caused by repotting too deeply, the lower leaves being buried in the soil. The way to cure these rots is, of course, to keep the plant on the dry side. Too much water, too much humidity, or something of that kind, has started the rot, and this too moist condition must be corrected. This leaf softening generally occurs in my mature plants, well watered, mostly in the fall or after a long spell of cloudy weather. I do not consider it is a disease of itself, although I think it makes the plant more vulnerable to the entry of fungus rots of various sorts. I think it is also an indication that the plant is no longer young and vigorous, that it has reached the limit of its growth and is probably on its way down unless you do something radical like repotting, moving to a larger pot, changing the amount of light fertilizer, or something of the sort.

On older plants, it is natural for some of the outer leaves to come off, as the plant has the leaves it can support with the new leaves coming in the center. When these outer leaves wilt or get bedraggled, they should be taken off.

H. G. Harvey, Ga.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Leaves . . . Plants

Many new varieties. Send for list.
Leaves 3 for $1.00. Minimum order $3.00

NOKER'S PLANT NURSERY
West Chestnut Ave. Vineland, N. J.

Orlyt GREENHOUSE
$450

Excellent for Growing African Violets or Anything Else You Choose
Made in sections all ready for simple assembly with bolts and screws . . . Easy-to-put-up anywhere, anytime. $450 buys the 10 by 11 ft. Orlyt shown ready to put on your foundation. Five other basic models including Lean-tos and Greenhouses with straight sides priced from $210. Automatic heat and ventilation at reasonable prices. Convenient terms available. Write for Booklet No. 59.

LORD & BURNHAM
IRVINGTON N. Y. DES PLAINES ILL.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Leaves . . . Plants

Most of the older varieties and limited stock of many new ones, including Fringettes, White Girl, and Fantasy. Write for List

ORCHARD NURSERY
Successors to E. H. THOMAS
RR No. 1, Box 483 Lafayette, Calif.

VIOLET PILGRIMAGE

Daisy Jones, Tenn.

Three years ago I suggested in our quarterly BULLETIN that our Memphis & Shelby County African Violet Club have an African Violet Pilgrimage. This, we did, but in small groups of just a few club members driving by to see some of their friends' African violets when they were at their heighth of blooming.

However, at our June, 1950 meeting, our President, Mrs. W. E. Ward, put it to a vote as to whether we wanted a tea or Pilgrimage and Picnic for the incoming and outgoing officers. Well, believe me, the vote was unanimous for the Pilgrimage and Picnic. Thursday, June 29th, was the date decided upon and we sent members postal cards telling them to telephone in their reservations if they planned to attend and giving them a schedule of the time and starting place of the Pilgrimage which started at 9:30 A.M. Ninety-six members phoned in reservations.

We visited three homes in different sections of town. Each home had a gorgeous display of Saintpaulias, blooming and non-blooming plants all marked with the variety name. We actually saw varieties that the average African violet enthusiast will not be able to secure for the next two or three years. We saw whole series of the Gypsies, many, many new duPonts, some of the new doubles and some of the new Girl varieties.

We were steadily on the go until one P.M. at which time we went to the twenty-two acre estate of Mrs. H. B. May Jr. at Forest Hills, where we found everything provided for the picnic lunch. The front lawn of the beautiful Colonial home had groups of chairs placed under the large shady oak and mimosa trees and under large yellow lawn umbrellas, and gentle southern breezes were blowing. All during the lunch we talked "African violets".

Just after lunch, Mrs. Ward presented the hostess, Mrs. May, with a lovely pair of ceramic ear bobs and pin in the shape of duPont African violets. Then, three lucky numbers were called and the winners were given packages of plant food. Plastic Wik-Fed pots were given to the Chairman of the Pilgrimage, Mrs. W. C. Hope, and to the co-Chairman, Mrs. May, Sr.

All in all, we had a lovely African Violet Day; we came away with thoughts of violets blooming everywhere. There is no doubt in my mind that our Club Members will unanimously vote again next year for another African Violet Pilgrimage and Picnic. It was a treat and will long live in our memory as a day spent very happily and pleasantly with our hobby, those de-LOVELY AFRICAN VIOLETS!

THE SELECT VIOLET HOUSE

MARY MEEDS

Box 1444, Youngstown, Ohio

Formerly

R. G. Baxters Greenhouse

I am the first to offer you "LACY GIRL" for sale $3.00 each, 2 for $5.00. This beautiful variety took the spotlight at the Philadelphia Show. Originated by the West Side Greenhouses.

AN INVITATION TO YOU!

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ROIGINA

African Violet Plant Food in capsule form. 40¢ postpaid

BOTTRELL'S GIFT SHOP

816 N. First Street,

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

Do Your Blossoms . . .

Drop off after Watering?

Lorna Anderson, Mich.

I often hear this remark, "Why do my blossoms fall off after I water my plants?"

By careful observation and study of my plants for a considerable period of time, I have found that if I water my plants around seven-thirty at night they will retain their pretty blossoms for a longer length of time.

I believe that this may be due to a higher sugar and starch content in the plants at this time of the day.

So far I have had no troubles -- my plants are free from bacterial diseases, even when watered while the temperature is dropping and the humidity is rising.

AFRICAN VIOLETS - Quality Plants . . .

WHITE BEAUTY (White Boy)	$2.00	VIOLET BEAUTY	$1.50
BLUE EYED BEAUTY	$2.25	LAVENDER GIRL HYBRID	$1.50
WHITE GIRL (Detroit)	$2.25	PURPLE GIRL HYBRID	$1.50
SNOW PRINCE (New)	$2.25	SUNRISE	$1.50
MOTTLED WHITE (A Beauty)	$2.50	RED GIRL HYBRID	$1.50
ORCHID WONDER	$1.50	ORCHID BICOLOR	$1.50
RED KING	$1.50	HYBRID BLUE GIRL	$1.50
LAVENDER BEAUTY	$1.50	LILAC PRINCESS	$1.25
SAILOR GIRL	$1.50	FANTASY	$2.50
BLUE WARRIOR	$1.50	MENTOR BOY AMAZON (Black Beauty)	$1.75
LAVENDER PINK PRINCESS	$1.50	DOUBLE NEPTUNE (Queen Neptune)	$1.75
SAFFRON RED BOY	$1.50	SHOW GIRL	$1.50
GORGEOUS BICOLOR	$1.50		
LACY GIRL	$2.75		

These are LARGE blooming size plants, ready upon delivery to claim the spotlight in your window. Orders filled in rotation - - sent to you as soon as the weather becomes mild. Plants healthy and pest free, state inspected. Orders over $5.00 postpaid, under $5.00 please add 50¢ for packing and postage. If special delivery is desired please include 35¢ additional on orders of any size. Iowa customers, please add 2% sales tax as required by state law.

SAINTPAULIA HOUSE

(Mrs. Dorothy Young)

534 N. GREEN STREET OTTUMWA, IOWA

HYPONeX
Grows Better Plants Faster
In SOIL, SAND or WATER

Simply dissolve and water all your houseplants, garden flowers, vegetables, shrubs or lawn. Produces stronger plants, more and larger flowers and fruit. Excellent for starting seedlings, cuttings, transplants. Clean, odorless. Won't burn foliage or roots if used as directed. Contains all nutritional elements complete and balanced—plus vitamin B1—instantly available. Results sure.

If your dealer can't supply you send $1 for 1 lb. can postpaid. Makes 100 gallons

HYDROPONIC Chemical Co., Inc. Copley, O.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

New Varieties
Old Varieties
Variegated Varieties

Send Stamp For List

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Fayette, Ohio

POTS FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

4" "Squatty" Clay Flower Pots, dark red in color and with excellent porosity, are ideal for AFRICAN VIOLETS. Has specially treated edges to help prevent sloughing off of leaves. Used by florists for growing violets, and recommended as one of the best for good results. Shipped prepaid parcel post.

4 for $1.00 10 for $2.00
25¢ additional postage west of the Rockies

CERAMO COMPANY

Box 84-A Jackson, Missouri

SPECIALIZING IN
AFRICAN VIOLETS
Send For Free Price List
TONKADALE GREENHOUSE
Rt. 3 Box 233 Hopkins, Minn.

PLANTING by the MOON

Ada Muir, Canada

First we must consider the nature of our plant and whether we are interested in the part which grows above the ground or that which matures under the ground. Of those which mature for our use above the ground, we have lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, as well as the indoor and outdoor flowers. Those which mature under the ground are potatoes, carrots, etc. If you are interested in those which mature above the ground, choose dates during the two weeks following a New Moon, but for those which produce their crop under the ground, choose those dates after the Full Moon.

The African Violet prefers a humid atmosphere and some of the signs are what are termed Water Signs. The influence of those signs is carefully noted by some farmers, for they know that, if they dig out the vegetables while the Moon is passing through a Water Sign, they will have great difficulty in preventing mold forming even though it might be a dry, sunny day.

The Sun is in Water Signs from about February 19 to March 20; from June 22 to July 23; from October 24 to November 23. We should then give first choice to days during these periods when the Moon is also in a Water Sign, and for sowing seed, planting leaves, etc., from the New to the Full Moon.

These dates are March 7, 16, 17, July 4, 13, 14, October 31, November 7, 8.

Next best periods are when the Sun is reflecting the influence of Earth Signs and these are: December 22 to January 21; April 21 to May 21; August 24 to September 24, and during these periods we choose those dates when the Moon is either in Earth or Water Signs, and from New to Full for sowing or planting.

These dates are: January 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, 21; May 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 20; September 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 14.

The non-fertile periods are as the Sun is reflecting the influence of Fire or Air Signs, from January 21 to February 18, March 21 to April 20, May 22 to June 21, July 23 to August 23, September 24 to October 23, November 23 to December 22. It might suit your purpose to use dates during these periods, and if so, these will be the best dates: February 7, 8, 12, 13, 17, 18; April 8, 9, 12, 13, 17, 18; June 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, 17; August 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14. Plants will require more watchful care if these dates are used.

If you are treating your plants for any disease condition, or for those who plant them outside, weeding, choose dates after the Full Moon for best results.

HOMING PIGEON

Cont. from Page 37

can violet lovers already. If we have good luck with the little plants after we get them in the pots, we hope to have nice blooming plants to take home to the Mothers next spring when school closes. All the other grades are interested in our project and the teachers have been stopping in our room to look at our plants.

Irene Russell, N. C., Unit 46

Grace Eyerdom has a plan to increase interest among the members of her Pigeon Unit. To each member of the Unit she mailed several leaves. These leaves are only numbered -- there is no other means of identification. Each member is to try to identify the leaves and to plant them by her favorite method. The plan is to see who can grow to maturity a SPECIMEN plant in the shortest length of time. Each member is to keep a record of the progress of her plant, when it was planted, how soon it rooted, how soon it developed a plant -- etc. When the plant has reached maturity and is a blooming specimen plant, the owner is to photograph her plant or plants if all leaves developed for her. She then is to mail the photo to Mrs. Eyerdom. When all members have sent in their photo entry, qualified judges will judge and the winner will be sent a specified value in dollars of plants from the Eyerdoms' greenhouse as the prize. I may have overlooked a few details in this report. I asked Grace to write up her plan for increasing interest in her Unit, but she is so busy with greenhouse duties that I have tried to do it for her. Wonder who will win this contest! I am hoping that the winner can be announced in this column at some future date.

Pigeon Editor

When putting leaves down to propagate I take a piece of aluminum foil and crumple it up very loosely; it can be made to fit any leaf. Stand it in back of leaf to brace it. It's better than using tooth picks.

Mrs. Pearl Spink, Calif., Unit 104

I have put down a number of leaves in vermiculite, in a large pan. I take a piece of adhesive tape about a quarter of an inch wide and write the name of the variety on with an indelible pencil and gently press it on the back of the leaf. Plant it in the vermiculite, propping it up with tooth picks for support, until the leaf has straighened out, as they do when they start to root. This way you can plant several varieties in one container.

Alice Shoemaker, Wash., Unit 79

I buy the little plastic spoons and forks for just a few cents. I clip the spoon and fork and use only the handle. These are very satisfactory. I also use a large plastic cake cover for a miniature green house for tiny plants.

Aileen Bell, Kans.

Lady Geneva is a variety that frequently has a tendency to revert back to the original Blue Boy stock. However, we did try something that worked out pretty well for us. When the white border was very faint on a good number of plants, we went over them and took off all the blossom stems. This seemed to give them a jolt of some sort—lo, and behold, the next blooms were very definitely marked with the white edge.

Grace Eyerdom, Ohio, Unit 17

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PIGEON EDITOR

And now to all you good little Pigeons -- I am saying farewell. This is my last report. I have asked Mrs. Wright to find someone else to take over as News Editor. I've enjoyed reading your letters and want to thank all Pigeon Directors, as well as their members, for their cooperation.

Sincerely,

Violet Berry

AFRICAN VIOLETS

The Newest Varieties. Also Many Older Varieties. Stamp for list.

"Ferne For Violets"
FERNE KELLAR
1223 E. Oak Park
Des Moines 16, Iowa

PEP-O-PLANT

IDEAL FOOD for House Plants
Especially suited for African violets
Rich in Plant Vitamins
6 oz. bottle added to water
makes 42 quarts
50¢ per bottle postpaid

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WANT EXTRA GROWTH AND VIGOR?

Use ATLAS FERTILIZER EMULSION an all-organic, complete plant food. Contains 22 minerals and trace elements plus B-complex vitamins. No burning. Dilute with water. One pint make 32-96 gallons. Ideal for AFRICAN VIOLETS and all plants - flowers, vegetables, fruits, lawns.

D-Vista Gardens, Salem, Oregon, says: "Results have been excellent. The violets took on fine color and the blooms have been large."

Send $1.00 for trial pint, postage prepaid.

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Room 807 - No. 1 Drumm St.
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WE HAVE . . .

"75,000 African Violets" growing in our certified greenhouses at all times. Plants are grown in sterilized soil, selenate treated, all certified stock. Our large supply assures you of highest quality at lowest cost when we fill your order.

Over 115 varieties available in all stages; fresh cut leaves, well rooted cuttings and plants all sizes. We are not merchandisers of Violets but growers with over 25 years experience specializing in the culture of African Violets.

Complete list of supplies, if we don't have it, name it, we'll get it.

WHOLESALE & RETAIL (minimum order wholesale 25 plants) FREE LIST UPON REQUEST — specify which list. OPEN EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR—VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME.

FRENTZEN FLORAL GARDENS

Dept. A. 309 Lake Ave. Pitman, N. J.

HOW TO USE "FERMATE" FUNGICIDE

Cont. from Page 19

needed less frequently. Cover all plant surfaces of leaves. Many fungi infect primarily through the lower leaf surface.

Seedlings are often attacked by mold organisms at the surface of the soil, resulting in damping off — the rotting and decay of the stems at the ground lines. Spraying or dusting the surface of the soil with Fermate aids in preventing damping off. Apply Fermate evenly and lightly before or as seedlings emerge, using spray or dust concentration given.

FERMATE FOR TREATING FLORAL CUTTINGS

Fermate effectively controls cutting rot and damping off diseases when applied to floral cuttings before planting. Either of the following treatments may be used.

Liquid — Completely immerse cuttings in Fermate spray mixture by dipping up and down 2 or 3 times; drain. A rooting hormone may be applied after draining, if desired. This immersion treatment also prevents the development and carry over of foliage diseases on the cuttings.

Dry — Dip bases of cuttings in dry Fermate powder diluted 50-50 with talc or one of the rooting powders. Tap off any excess.

Fermate Fungicide is now on the markets in 8 oz. canisters.

If there is difficulty in obtaining Fermate, contact your nearby seed store. Fermate is a DuPont product and can be ordered from their distributors.

A VIOLET GIFT

I'm a fragile teen-age Violet
Needing mother-love and care;
A warm home flaunting sunlight;
Water, food and clean fresh air.

Then I'll try my best to blossom
Into such a pretty sight
That your heart will be a-flutter
With the vibrance of delight
At my beauty. You'll be happy---
Happy that you gave me room
When you read . . . "Appreciation
For your kindness" . . . in my bloom.

Grace M. Hartley

WHAT'S IN A SEED

Cont. from Page 13

one Calla Lily Girl," Grace replied. However, it is not officially named. If you can visualize rich bronze green foliage, deeply veined and quilted with a white spot at the base of the leaves, which is curled into a funnel like the Calla Lily, that carries a profusion of true blue blossoms on medium length stems, you may have a vague picture of the sight Calla Lily Girl and the other Mulberry girl seedlings presented. Many of these seedlings are compact or miniature in growth. Some have deeply cut or lacy girl type foliage, others are very velvety dark bronze green girl type foliage. All seedlings in this group carry large flowers measuring 1½ to 2 inches across on long stems. Many of them are Bi-color while others are the same shade as their Mother, Mulberry Girl, a rich dark red, round like Neptune.

We were not allowed to tarry long over the seedlings in which I had been so interested, but were ushered to the basement where again African violets were growing under fluorescent daylight lamps; not on nearly such a large scale as we had seen at Mrs. Kellar's, though, because African violets are strictly a hobby with Grace.

She, too, has been working at cross pollination, the results of which were truely a most glorious sight. These plants have deeply scalloped, quilted and pronouncedly veined foliage, some a lettuce green, others are of an olive green shading to velvety bronze. The theory that one "might" have the good fortune to get "one" plant out of hundreds, or even thousands, of seedlings outstanding enough to deserve a name, does not hold true with either this group of Mrs. Gammell's seedlings or Mrs. Kellar's Mulberry Girl seedlings. With very few exceptions, each plant in both groups is an individual with characteristics entirely its own. It may interest some to know Mrs. Gammell's seedlings are a cross of Sailor Boy on Blue Girl. I wish it were possible for me to find the words to express the feeling of awe that possessed me as I admired this outstanding group of seedlings.

Like the Mulberry Girl seedlings, Mrs. Gammell's are also known by number only to date, but in due time these superior saintpaulias must be given a very worthy name.

The amazing thing to me was that the pollination for this later group of plants had been done only sixteen months previous, which made the beautiful specimens we were looking at just seven months old.

Reluctantly we tore ourselves away from Mrs. Gammell and her lovely plants, asking questions and making comments as

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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS — for the growing of African Violets . . . . . 50¢

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Leaves **Plants**

Newest varieties, Snow Prince, Snow Girl, White Boy, Amazon Gt. Blue, Merkel's No. II, Merkel's Red Ripples, Red Ruffles, Show Girl, Fantasy. Orders in rotation on Double White. Stamp for list.

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Control Watering of Your African violets.

No. 8 Oval 3x4x4 at $1.50
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Terra Cotta and Stone Grey

See Article and Pictures, Page 17, Sept. Issue This Magazine.

F. O. B.

TOPPING HILL CRAFT

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MANY VARIETIES

We ship from 3-inch pots.

Descriptive list free

AFRICAN VIOLET SOIL—Sterilized 5 lb., $1.10; 10 lb., $2.00
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N. N. O. R.—6 oz., $1.25; 16 oz., $2.50
VERMICULITE—4 qt., 40c
STIM ROOT—2 oz., $1.00
Painted Wood Labels, 5 in., $1 per 100

Above sent prepaid

SODIUM SELENATE—Enough for 1 gal. solution, 25¢ & stamped envelope. We welcome our friends who are traveling to and from the Convention

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HOUSEPLANT NURSERY
BUNKER HILL, INDIANA

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Their Care and Propagation

By HELEN B. GILBERT, M.A.

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You can grow **beautiful, healthy, flowering plants.** This illustrated book gives **step-by-step directions.**

Only $1.00 postpaid

★

WILLSON PRESS BOX 6A PHELPS, N. Y.

we wended our way to the car for a dashing visit with Maxine Wangberg, some forty miles away.

It was a delightful two or three hours we spent, that afternoon, looking at more saintpaulias in Maxine's lovely greenhouse. Then as twilight began to fall, we made our way back to Mrs. Kellar's home. There the early hours of the morning found Mary and I still swamping Ferne with questions. I do not mind telling you it was hard to start on our way home Wednesday morning. A good-bye would be said when suddenly one or the other of us would think of something else to ask Ferne, or to have her reassure us of this or that. Once we had waved our last good-bye to Ferne, we headed home via Ottumwa, Iowa, to make a call on Mrs. Robert Young, who, of course, is an African violet enthusiast. We found her well on the way with the building of an African violet greenhouse.

Did some one say, "Where do these African Violets take us?"

LOST MEMBERS

INFORMATION ! !

The following members cannot be located by these present addresses. Please help us find them.

Mrs. T. M. Sewell
436 Fenton Place,
Charlotte, N. C.

Mrs. Julia S. Moore
108 Eleventh Street,
Elkins, W. Va.

Mrs. L. F. Palenski
Taxico, Kansas

Iva Moore
Fort Dodge, Iowa

Mrs. T. R. Blair
1620 6th
Topeka, Kansas

Mrs. W. L. Botkin
4664 Camelia
New Orleans, La.

Mrs. James Cooper
905 St. Louis Ave.
Excelsior Springs, Mo.

MEET MY FAVORITES

Cont. from Page 18

it all, and the motto, which was inscribed on the front of the grade school I attended, came to mind: SEEK KNOWLEDGE - - POSSESS WISDOM. I have learned a great deal about African violets in the past few years, and now am beginning to realize how very little we know about them.

While I was getting over the shock of my literary failure, my seedlings got alternate amounts and varying degrees of tender loving care and pure neglect, but they grew! More than sixty of them bloomed, and if I had had room, I think I would have kept them all. I had a number of outstanding plants, not all of commercial value, but pretty in a collection.

Blue Snow is one of my favorites. It is a lovely sparkling, light, lavender-blue with mature blossoms about 1¾ inches across. The foliage is a medium dark green, sometimes with a lighter streak in the center, and, depending on the exposure, sometimes red underneath. The leaves are quilted and scalloped.

Moonglow blossoms open a very deep wine color, and each day they become lighter until the mature flowers are a very light orchid. The edges of the petals are slightly curly and shaded a little more than the rest of the blossom. The leaf is medium to bluish green, and is round. I, personally, wasn't too impressed with this plant, but visitors invariably picked it out as something different.

Polly is a pretty little thing, with flowers only 1½ inches across. Leaves are quilted like Neptune and evenly scalloped. The flower is a red-orchid, cupped blossom, with a dark line etched around the edge. As the blossom grows older, it is streaked like 'pique'.

Lady Slipper is an exquisite orchid with the petals pinched back, yet with the tip of the lower one turning up. The leaves are dark green with light green veins and they are shiny, pimply, slightly wavy and narrow. The flowers are held high above the foliage and, though not borne in such profusion as some other varieties, their quality is worth more than a quantity of less beautiful flowers.

Last, but by no means least, is Love Birds. It has a lovely light green, slightly quilted leaf and an intriguing blossom by which it won its name. The tips of the top petals are a dark wine color, and since the remainder of the petals are light

IDEAL PLANT FOOD

FOR PLANT LOVERS

This perfectly balanced, 100% water soluble, plant food will give new life, gorgeous bloom, stronger roots to all plants. Guarantee bloom in African violets. Ideal for starting seedlings, cuttings and transplants. Your gardening friends will be delighted with Plant Marvel as a gift from you. 16 oz. can makes 250 gals. plant food. Handy measure, directions and free leaflet on African violets with each pkg. $1.25 P.Pd.

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Now offering

White King	Sea Girl
Blue Eyed Beauty	Rose Marie
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Double Neptune	Neptune Supreme
Red King	Blue Warrior
Bronze Girl	Gorgeous Spoon Leaf

and many others.

Send for free price list. We supply Wik-Fed pots, potting soil, plant food, The African Violet Book, etc.

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PROSPECT, OHIO

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED —

from many crosses of many varieties, $1.00 for approx. 300 seeds. Planting instructions included. If interested in Extra Special Crosses, $3.00 a pkg. Send for list.

FRIENDLY GARDENS

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EASY-FASCINATING

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED KIT

Here's a real indoor gardening thrill! Grow African Violets from seed easily — all guesswork removed. You'll get 25 to 75 fine plants, all different and each one is, technically, an entirely new variety. No two alike. Kit was developed from the recommendations of one of America's leading African Violet experts. Contains propagating box, special growing mixture, soil conditioner and 100 African Violet seeds. One of finest seed strains, plants have up to 20 flowers at one time. Complete, easily followed instructions included, plus a bulletin "African Violet Care." Send $1.25 to: MAHR CO., BOX 585, Dept. 11, Des Moines, Iowa.

J. A. PETERSON SONS
REQUESTS

That you visit our greenhouses on your trip to the convention in Dayton this Spring. We have greatly expanded our facilities for growing Saintpaulias in the past year. Our greenhouses have been turned over to the Violet almost 100%.

We ship a minimum of 1 carton—either 25-3-in. or 25-2¼-in. These may be assorted varieties.

Write for our price list covering 100 varieties.

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PLANTSMITH

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orchid, it looks just like a pair of lovebirds. If grown in a good light (mine does best at an eastern exposure) the tips of the three lower petals are a dark wine, also. We first called this plant "Jimmy's Bi-Color" because our 12 year old claimed it. The more appropriate name was found later, but not until after the plant was shown at the Metropolitan African Violet Club Show in Alexandria, Virginia, in May, 1949, as Jimmy's Bi-Color. It has been well liked, is a good bloomer, and we are justly proud of it.

If any of you have time on your hands, just try planting a pack of African violet seeds. After there are shelves on every available window, and there just isn't any more room anywhere, who knows, - you may be the very person who will find the answer to "Where shall I put them?" One thing is certain, the pleasure one gets from growing African violets and the friendships that are formed through them gives one the feeling that "this old world ain't such a bad place after all".

"Please mention THE AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE when answering the advertisements."

VIOLET TREASURE HOUSE

Right Down Town **Opposite Post Office**
217 W. Emma Ave.
SPRINGDALE, ARKANSAS

Blooming Plants — Started Plants - - Leaves
Over 100 Varieties — Send for list

Blue Eyed Beauty, Violet Beauty, Lavender Beauty, White Girl, Red King, Red Queen, Red Beauty, Lavender Girl, Fringettes, Orchid Wonder, other late ones, mostly in bloom, $1.00 each.

Dozens of older varieties at 75¢.

Orders for 3 plants postpaid; on smaller orders, add 50¢.

HEAVY-ROOTED RUGGED SHOW PLANTS
When in Northwest Arkansas, visit our Violet Greenhouses.

AFRICAN VIOLET FLOWER PINS

Ceramics in all colors. $1.50 prepaid.

MRS. LILLIE KUEHN
4026 Garden Ave.
MERCHANTSVILLE 11, N. J.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE

Cont. from Page 35

African violets and other house plants as is Dale Ulery will be unwilling to consider any first generation hybrids as proven new and different varieties. That, of course, is as it should be, and Mr. Ulery will undoubtedly test-grow leaf cuttings of every one of his unusual new hybrids, in order to ascertain whether they will reproduce true to form. Such proof is necessary, of course, and will be your guarantee that when these new hybrids reach you they will be proven varieties and not unreliable variants. Test-growing consumes a reasonable length of time and is already well under way with these hybrids in the Ulery greenhouses.

It also stands to reason that it will require a sufficient length of time for Mr. Ulery to propagate leaf cuttings in sufficient numbers to provide adequate stock of these hybrids he selects for introduction to the retail trade. These essentially delaying factors naturally mean that properly proven varieties cannot reach you and me within the next few weeks or perhaps months. Patience! I believe that I can offer you the assurance that these new things of Mr. Ulery will be well worth waiting for.

I believe we may reasonably expect some of the hybrids in all three of the categories indicated, both singles and doubles—particularly those with bloom of white background that are heavily marked with stripes down the center of the petals —will not come true to form when test-grown. There will be variants, not essentially to be regarded as mutants (sports), that are really distinctive in foliage, color and design of bloom, and otherwise but whose bloom are not all of an identical design, particularly as to marking. Some of these variants may be so outstanding and different that their originator will desire to carefully select a group of them as a new strain or series; and to give the entire series thus selected an appropriate name rather than attempt to identify each one of the plants in a group of this kind as a separate and distinct variety, or to give each one of the plants a separate name. To do the latter might be decidedly misleading.

Perhaps it will better clarify the conditions indicated in the preceding paragraph by citing the following illustration. Let us say that a particular selected series or strain will produce from leaf cuttings some ten to fifteen plants with beautifully marked bloom. But while the foliage of each of these ten to fifteen plants may be identical or nearly so, no two of them will have bloom that is identically marked. All will have, let us say, bloom with pure white background, but the design of blue or other color tint marking on them will vary somewhat. In an instance of this kind, after proper test-growing, the series or

LEAF CUTTINGS, SEEDS and "SLIPS" GROW LIKE MAGIC

Success every time with this amazing, attractive Humidity Dome -- right in your own living room!

No need to be lucky - - - this fascinating miniature greenhouse takes the guesswork out of starting ALL house plants from seeds and cuttings. Scientific vent construction automatically controls humidity and condensation - - - prevents leaves from wilting and seeds from drying out. Complete with the only self-watering, durable glass plant container made. The glass walls of the Hamilton containers insulate the roots from the changing temperatures of day and night. Choice of SOFT colors of Rose Quartz or Leaf Green, with crystal Dome. Overall height, 10".

$2.95 complete

3 sets for $8.20, postpaid

Extra Plant Containers, $1.50 each, 3 for $3.95

FREE BOOKLET with order, "Success with House Plants including African Violets." Single copies, 10¢ each.

See your Florist or Nurseryman, or order from

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AFRICAN VIOLETS

New Spring African Violet List Now Ready. Leaves and Plants. Write for Free Copy.

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NEWNAN, GEORGIA

WILL YOU HELP?

"A request has been received from Salt Lake City Veterans Hospital for a Project there, but to date it has not been possible to locate anybody to sponsor it. Can you make any suggestions? Write any ideas you might have to Mr. Neil C. Miller, Director, Veterans Project, Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J."

WHAT???

NOT ON OUR
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SEND YOUR NAME & ADDRESS

TODAY!!!!!

Russward

JONESBORO,
ARKANSAS

BACK ISSUES OF MAGAZINE

Not all back issues of the magazine are now in print.

Requests for these must be made on penny post cards and you will be notified which ones are available.

Do not send money until you are notified.

JUDGES SCHOOL

Thursday April 26, 1951 at Hotel Dayton Biltmore, Dayton Ohio.

Schedule for School:

Registration - 8:00 to 9:00 A.M. Thursday

Class 9:00 to 11:30 A.M.

Luncheon - 11:30 to 12:30 P.M.

Examination - 12:30 to 2:30 P.M.

All reservations must be sent in to the Convention Chairman, Mrs. Nelle Berst, 434 Williams St., Dayton 7, Ohio by April 1st. No reservations for Judging School will be accepted after this date.

Please read this schedule carefully and make your reservation with the Convention Chairman by April 1st. No reservations will be accepted after this date. It is most necessary to know how many to plan for to insure the efficient operation of the Judges School.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

strain may be given some such appropriate name as the "Rainbow Series" and this named series would be accordingly registered with the African Violet Society of America.

The naming of a series, instead of attempting to identify and name each separate plant in it, is a rather new idea and is suggested purely in the interest of helping to meet probable future needs of a sound and simplified nomenclature for African violets. While I do not endorse this suggestion and have no reason to believe that the Society's Committee on Registration would either approve or disapprove such a suggestion, I do believe it is something to begin thinking about seriously at this time.

A sketchy article of this kind does not even begin to do justice in a full and complete description of each one of these exceptionally fine new hybrids. It is hoped, therefore, that the Ulerys will exhibit each one that they select for introduction at the forthcoming Annual Convention in Dayton, Ohio, next month.

The future is bright and will, I am certain, continue to grow brighter for all of us who grow and admire African violets.

ISOLOMA

(Greek meaning "equal border")

Louise F. Smouse, S. C.

Isoloma is a cousin of our African violet, believed to be the least hybridized of the Gesneriaceae, that is, most nearly original. There are about fifty species from Tropical America.

These greenhouse or warm window plants grow with similar care to our "pet," from creeping rhizomes to flowers single or clustered, five lobed and of varicolor, orange or scarlet.

I. amabile grows native to Columbia. Grows to two feet high with erect stems and ovate leaves, a dull green blotched purple along the main vein.

I. hirsuta is an erect branching shrub to four feet. The leaves short petioled, and inch long solitary purple nodding flowers.

I. bogatense or Tydaea grow to two feet and are hairy. The ovate leaves, cordate at the base, are spotted and veined with silver green and edged reddish. The blossom is red, yellow spotted and nodding.

I. hondence is more diminutive, growing to one foot. The leaf is hairy and ovate, the flowers yellow, an inch or more long, with the tube spotted with bright red hairs.

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for
AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING

SODIUM SELENATE
For control of mite on African violets. Put up in capsules so user does not have to worry about either weighing the material or handling the dry powder. Convenient for either Standard or Extra Dilute Method of treatment. Used regularly by many hobbyists to be sure a mite infestation could not be introduced. 12 capsules, enough for about 200 plants, for one dollar postpaid.

PLASTIC PLANT LABELS
Considered by many enthusiastic users to be the handiest and most permanent marker yet devised. Can be written on with ordinary lead pencil, and the pencil marking is permanent throughout the life of the plant, but it can be completely erased and the label used over again. Won't rot, mildew, or break. 3/8 by 4 inches in size, big enough to carry variety name and other notations, but not so large they "steal the pot." as other markers do.

Thickness A. Thin, will bend with leaves. 125 for one dollar, postpaid.
Thickness B. Thicker, inserts into soil easier. 100 for one dollar, postpaid.
Larger sizes also available.

BONE MEAL
CHARCOAL
GROUND LIMESTONE
SUPERPHOSPHATE
The hard-to-get items that many people have trouble obtaining. In small, easy-to-use packages. Shipped in containers of about two quart capacity. One dollar per container, postpaid.

Also combination package of bone meal, charcoal, ground limestone, and superphosphate, one dollar, postpaid.
West of Denver add 15 cents postage.
What else do you have trouble getting?
Drop me a line, I may have it also.

FERMATE
The duPont fungicide which many people have already used successfully on African Violets and which would probably be much more widely used if it had been more readily available. Standard 8-ounce duPont package, one dollar, postpaid.
Also other duPont Garden Products. Write for circulars and prices. Prices on duPont products include all handling charges.

LEAF MAILING KIT
The quickest way to build a collection is to exchange leaves with others, in widely separated parts of the country. But mailing leaves has frequently been unsatisfactory, preparation for mailing is messy and time consuming, and the leaves dry out or are crushed. Kit consists of transparent waterproof envelopes, plastic labels, and sturdy crush-re-sisting tubular mailing case. To use, simply place leaves in individual envelopes, insert plastic labels for identification, seal envelopes, place in mailing case, address and mail. No messing with tin foil, waxed paper or absorbent cotton, nor time lost in hunting for a strong box. Mailing case can be used over and over; refills of envelopes and labels are available. Why not get one of these kits and build a collection fast by keeping it traveling back and forth between you and several friends with leaves of new varieties as soon as you acquire them? Convenient for those Pigeon exchanges that never get done otherwise.

Complete kit, one dollar, postpaid.

NEIL C. MILLER
Layton's Lake
PENNS GROVE, N. J.

Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd. St.
Perry, Iowa.

TOPEKA AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

The Topeka African Violet Society was organized May 19, 1949, and now has a membership of sixteen, of which number there are thirteen who also belong to the National Society. Meetings are held in the homes of members on the fourth Saturday of the month.

Officers elected for this year are:

President,	Mrs. D. N. Wade
Vice President,	Mrs. J. M. Almgren
Treasurer,	Mrs. E. A. Fitzgerald
Secretary,	Mrs. Harry R. Logan
Press Corres.,	Miss Sidney M. Gardner

SOCIETY IN PORTLAND

Five Portland women, all members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., called a meeting on May 17, 1950, for those interested in growing saintpaulias, and after hearing talks from the members, the group voted to form the Portland African Violet Society. After two meetings, the membership has grown to twenty-six. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday night of each month.

Officers elected for a six month's period are:

President,	Mrs. Harry Arndt
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. G. T. Goldwaite
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Chas. Baker
Secy. & Publicity,	Mrs. A. C. Button
Treasurer,	Mrs. Lloyd E. Brown

OHIO VALLEY SOCIETY

The Ohio Valley African Violet Society, which was organized in June, elected the following officers:

President,	Miss Anna Rehm
Vice President,	Mrs. A. R. Bitzer, Jr.
Secretary,	Mrs. Russell L. Heslop
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. J. Watson

This club has a membeship of seventeen, and will hold it's full meetings at the Garden Center at Oglebay Park, Wheeling, W. Va.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

The African Violet Society of Chicago held its first Annual Spring Luncheon on June 7, 1950, at the Irving Park YMCA. Nearly one hundred enthusiastic African violet fanciers, consisting of members and friends of the Aurora, Crystal Lake, Rockford, and Chicago groups, attended. Our Regional Advisor of Illinois, Mrs. E. G. Magill of Aurora, gave an interesting talk on the "Facts and Fancies of African Violets". Included in her talk was a summary of the Convention held in Philadelphia in May. Mrs. Yoars of Bunkerhill, Indiana, was on hand with a beautiful display of many of the newer African violets from her nursery. Visiting Presidents were, Mrs. Eunice Livingston, Aurora, Mrs. Blanche Kirwin, Crystal Lake, and Mrs. Maybelle Rice, Rockford.

LEBANON, TENNESSEE CLUB

The Wilson County African Violet Club of Lebanon, Tennessee and vicinity was organized July 12, 1950, with the following officers:

President,	Miss Josephine Pitcock
Vice President,	Mrs. C. E. Wright
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Alice M. Cleveland

The Club meets the third Wednesday of each month at three o'clock.

ROCHESTER OFFICERS

The newly elected officers for the African Violet Society of Rochester and Vicinity are:

President,	Mrs. Harry Thompson
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Charles Anthony
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Carey B. Ostrander
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. John Grover
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Robert L. Derleth
Treasurer,	Mr. Edwin Chasey

CLEVELAND OFFICERS

At the November meeting of the Metropolitan Cleveland African Violet Society, the following officers were re-elected for the year 1950-1951:

President, Mrs. Frank Pochurek
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Joseph Hodan
Secretary, Mrs. Leslie Conant
Librarian and Historian, Mrs. John McKay
Treasurer, Mrs. John Held
Trustees, Mrs. Charles Hopeck and Mrs. M. McMahon

This group meets once a month at The Halle Brothers Company or the Higbee Company.

GREATER AKRON SOCIETY PLANS SPRING SHOW

The Greater Akron African Violet Society will hold their show at the M. O'Neil Company, Akron, Ohio, Monday, April 16, 12:30 P. M. to 9 P. M., and Tuesday, April 17, 10 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

A special welcome is extended to all National Members.

LANSING MICHIGAN

The Double 10 African Violet Club was organized November 8, 1950, with seven charter members. Membership is limited to twenty members as meetings are held in the homes, thus each one has an opportunity to display her violets. We are 100% "National" members, our $3.00 dues constitute membership in both local and national organizations.

List of officers:

President,	Mrs. Leon A. Pottruff.
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. John Vitovsky.
Sec.-Treas.,	Mrs. Ira Worcester.

REPORT FROM ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Erie County Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., had its first organization meeting in June at the home of Mrs. James R. Smith. Fifteen ladies were present and indicated their enthusiastic interest in the formation of a local society.

Election of officers took place in July at the Lawrence Park home of Mrs. James J. Prendergast. Elected to office were:

President,	Mrs. James J. Prendergast
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Wayne McKinley
Secretary,	Mrs. Stanley Wallace
Treasurer,	Mrs. James R. Smith
Program Chm.,	Mrs. Harry L. Miller

A quota of 25 members and a waiting list of several names was revealed at the September meeting.

HARRISBURG OFFICERS

The Harrisburg African Violet Club met for the first time on February 3, 1950, with 12 charter members. Officers elected were:

President,	Mrs. G. E. Twigg
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. H. A. Reifsnyder
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. H. Thomas
Secretary,	Mrs. Wm. A. Ziegler

By-laws were drawn up and adopted at a later meeting. A group of seven attended the National convention in Philadelphia. In June the club participated in an exhibit sponsored by the Garden Club of Harrisburg; forty African violets were shown, and ten blue ribbons won by the group. The club meets monthly, and the members give talks on various subjects pertaining to African violets. More than two-thirds of our members have joined the National Society, with new members being added all the time.

Miss Tosh & Mrs. Thalheimer

"BLOSSOMS to BOOST the BUDDIES"

At the Long Beach, California Naval Hospital, Betty Tosh and Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer Pres., of Long Beach Saintpaulia Society are pictured.

This is one of several trays of African violets for the Veterans. The pillow of blossoms is for a guessing contest, the Veteran guessing the names of most varieties has first choice and usually picks Red Headed Girl, Blushing Maiden, or Tinted Lady and so on down the line. They really enjoy having the plants.

MARCH SHOW IN OMAHA

The Omaha African Violet Club has elected the following officers for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Howard Martin
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. T. E. Davis
Treasurer,	Mrs. Henry Swingholm
Secretary,	Mrs. Glen Webber

The club held its third Annual Violet Tour in the fall. Three days were set aside for visiting and members held open house displaying their plants and methods of growing.

A spring show will be held at the Joslyn Memorial Hall, 22nd and Dodge St., Omaha, on Saturday, March 31 from 10 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. and on Sunday, April 1, from 2 P. M. to 6 P. M. The newest in "Violets" will be shown.

JACKSON MICHIGAN

On November 15, 1950, Mrs. Dale Ferrall of Battle Creek, Regional Director, met with a group to plan a new African Violet Society in Jackson, Michigan. The officers elected were:

President, Mrs. R. S. Preston
Vice-Pres., Mrs. C. R. Clemet
Secretary, Mrs. D. L. Bowers
Treasurer, Mrs. F. S. Thompson.

WEBSTER GROVES SOCIETY

The Viking African Violet Club met Wednesday, November 8, at the home of Mrs. O. R. Allgeier, Webster Groves, Missouri, for the final meeting of the first club year. Before the business meeting, refreshments of tea and coffee with cookies were served by the hostess.

Members responded to roll call with a report on "Progress with African Violets During this Year." Annual reports of all officers and committees were given. Plans were completed for a field trip to visit a wholesale greenhouse specializing in African Violets. Four new members were admitted to the club, completing the roster which is limited to twenty-four members, all of whom are members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

The following were elected to office for 1951:

President, Mrs. H. R. Kreitz, St. Louis
Vice-Pres., Mrs. F. D. Wayman, Webster Groves
Rec. Sec'y., Mrs. Robt. Thumser, St. Louis
Cor. Sec'y., Mrs. S. H. Huston, Webster Groves
Treasurer, Mrs. B. F Hines, Kirkwood

Following the business meeting the program "Pests and Diseases of African Violets" was presented by Mrs. J. R. Counts. Specimens of diseased plants were shown and provoked a lively discussion of prevention and cure of violet troubles.

UNIQUE SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY

On September 26, the first African Violet Society of Elgin, Illinois, was formed under the name of Unique Saintpaulia Society. This name was chosen in honor of Mrs. John Wills' Unique Violet. Thirteen charter members were present, and it was voted to limit each group to twenty members.

The following officers were elected:
President, Mrs. Fred Behling
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Joseph Oyka
Secretary, Mrs. Lillian Jaconson
Treasurer, Mrs. Helen Walker
Program & Research, Mrs. John C. Wills
Scrapbook, Miss Velda Lindholm
Correspondent, Mrs. Helen Walker
Transportation & Tours, Mrs. Ernest Benson

NEW CLUB IN ELGIN

In October, the second Elgin Violet Society was formed with eight charter members. The name is still to be considered. The following officers were elected for this group:

President, Mrs. Stanley McBride
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Richard Schnell
Secretary, Mrs. H. E. Benner
Treasurer, Mrs. Wm. Sparks
Correspondent, Mrs. Wm. Eddy
Transportation, Mrs. Ernest Burren
Consultant, Mrs. John C. Wills

No regular meeting dates will be arranged until after January 1. Each club now meets once a month, and plans are being made for the formation of a third club.

BORDER CITIES CLUB

On November 27, 1950, twenty-seven ladies met at the home of Mrs. Ida Aboud and organized the Border Cities African Violet Club. This name was selected because the members live in and around Detroit, with many members from Windsor, Canada. The membership has now reached 60 members.

Officers elected for a six month period are:

President, Mrs. Jack Lucoff
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Donald Wright
Treasurer, Mrs. John Aboud
Rec. Secy., Mrs. Ronald Reaume
Corres. Secy., Mr. Edward Gawel
Program Chm., Mrs. John Biel

MY LADY ELIZABETH VIOLET CLUB

In May, 1950, a group of North and Northeast Minneapolis women met at the home of Mrs. Henkel and organized the My Lady Elizabeth Violet Club, a branch of the Twin City Violet Club. Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month in the homes of the various members. A dessert or salad luncheon is served.

Newly elected officers for 1950 are:
President, Mrs. Emil Zabinski
Sec.-Treas., Mrs. George R. Johnson

SAGINAW ORGANIZES

The Amethyst African Violet Club of Saginaw, Michigan, was recently organized with a membership of seven, all National members. Meetings are to be the first Tuesday of the month.

Officers elected are:
President, Mrs. Lynn M. Vogler
Vice-Pres., Mrs. William H. Gelow
Secretary, Mrs. James A. Rhea
Treasurer, Mrs. John Phillips
Program Chm., Mrs. Dorothy Zill
Sunshine Committee Chm., Mrs. Clara Schannecke
Membership Chm., Mrs. Paul F. Lange
Publicity Chm., Mrs. William H. Gelow

NEW SOCIETY IN LITTLE ROCK

The Little Rock African Violet Society was organized by Mrs. John R. Hackett, September 15, 1950. Forty-four Members were enrolled. The following officers were elected:

President, Mrs. H. D. Scott
Vice-Pres., Mr. Joe Sittlington
Rec. Sec'y., Mrs. Herman Thompson
Cor. Sec'y., Mrs. Zelma Pierce
Treasurer, Mrs. Wallace Davis
Program Chm., Mrs. Charles Wickard

Meetings will be held at 10:30 A. M., the second Friday of each month in the Little Rock Public Library.

The Society held its first African Violet Show on October 19 and 20, 1950, in the Hackett Seed Store. There were 98 entries in two divisions. Prizes were awarded blue ribbon winners in each color class, both single and double crown divisions. Mrs. Charles Wickard was Show Chairman. The show was judged by Mrs. Virginia Grey of "Russward." Jonesboro, Arkansas. The most outstanding plant in the show was duPont No. 3. exhibited by Mrs. R. B. Bidwell, Little Rock.

This was Little Rock's second African Violet Show, the first since the Society was organized, and much interest was evidenced by the fact that over 500 persons visited the exhibit.

HACKENSACK COUNTY SOCIETY

On November 29, 1950. the following officers were elected by the members of the Hackensack County African Violet Society of New Jersey:

President, Mrs. Emma Davis
Rec. Sec'y., Mrs. Mariette Cronin
Cor. Sec'y., Mrs. Robert Close
Treasurer, Mrs. Carl Sachs
Hospitality Chm., Mrs. L. Garnier
Membership Chm., Mrs. Marion Poirier
Publicity, Mrs. Emma Davis

Meetings are held five times a year, either in the homes or at the County Administration Building, on the fourth Thursday evening of the month.

Interest is growing in this club, who's membership now totals 18. Interest in growing African violets has been started by this group at the Old People's Home in the Bergen Pines County Home; the plants for this project are being furnished by the club members.

VIRGINIA SOCIETY

In March, 1950, the African Violet Society of Princess Anne County, Virginia, was formed with the following officers elected to office:

President, Mrs. Marion Ames
Honorary Pres., Mrs. Sally Monfort
Honorary Pres., Rev. Davis
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Dolly Shuford
Rec. Sec'y., Mrs. Flossie Lockwood

Fair Exhibit

Treasurer, Mrs. Rachel Hutchinson
Cor. Sec'y., Mrs. Jean Throm

A committee on constitution and by-laws presented a constitution patterned after the National Society.

Our first activity to bring the club before the public was to have a luncheon table set at the Princess Anne County Fair held in September at Virginia Beach. Violets of pink and purple were used for a centerpiece and on place cards. The display won a blue ribbon. It was outstanding and drew attention from visitors from all parts of the state. Many questions were asked about violets and much interest was shown. A scrap book has been started in which activity of the club will be kept; it will be placed on display at the fair next year to show the progress the club has made.

The membership quota is about filled and plans for a spring exhibit are being made by the club members.

SHOW AT AKRON

The African Violet Society of Akron held it's first competitive show October 9 and 10 at Polsky's second floor auditorium.

As it was the first show of its kind in this area, it was well attended, registering 860 guests the first day and 924 the second.

We had guests from as far as California, Florida, Colorado, and British West Indies, plus all the closer states to Ohio—in all numbering 30. Ohio had 58 cities represented.

Members had 229 plants on display, Commercials exhibited 303 plants, and the public brought 50. There were 135 distinct varieties on display.

The plant rated best in show, "Purple Beauty," was grown by Mrs. Louise Trunick. It was awarded blue and gold ribbons, and a gold trophy.

Judges were Mrs. Helen Pochurek of Cleveland, Mrs. Priscilla Landacker of Cincinnati, and Mrs. Helen MacMahon of Macedonia.

A propagation table drew a constant crowd to hear the club members tell about and show pollination and starting violets from cuttings.

We Visited Mrs. Wistler

Mardie Eckhardt, Md.

My husband and I like to have a destination when we go for a drive, and having heard of a lady who sold African violets in Pennsylvania, we decided to go see her.

As it turned out, she is a member of the African Violet Society.

She lives in a large house with wide windows all over the house, and a greenhouse at the back. As we approached the house and looked up, it was a picture. Violets in every window upstairs and down, front and back and sides. In the hall by the door on an antique what-not were violets, and beside each was a small wooden holder with the name on a card. Up the stairway were windows with glass shelves and violets on them. In the next room was a lovely bay window, with glass shelves filled with violets and just covered with blossoms.

After seeing all the violets, I asked her about the greenhouse, thinking there might be more. She said she didn't have any in the greenhouse but would rather raise them in the house; they do better and are less trouble.

I bought three violets from her, and the change did not set them back one bit. They are prettier than my own, even the one that was the same variety as one of my own.

So you, who are like myself, without a greenhouse, can take courage and grow African violets right in your own windows with wonderful success.

The lady was just as lovely as her violets, and we enjoyed our trip very much. Seeing other people who like the same thing as you do, African violets, and discussing them, gives one a contented feeling.

Get together with your friends, start a club, and grow African violets.

AN AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW

Every Day in the Year at GENT'S Greenhouses

ALWAYS OPEN

We have over 60 varieties - Thousands of plants continually in bloom.

Our prices are reasonable: 2¼ in. plants 50-75¢, 3 in. plants $1.00-$1.25, 4 in. plants $1.50-$2.00.

Newer Varieties Slightly Higher

These prices are at Greenhouse only. WE DO NOT SHIP.

Some of the new ones on our list are: Bronze Girl, Sailor Girl, Double Neptune, Blue Eyes Amazon, Congo Queen (Red duPont), Blue Warrior, Blue Eyed Beauty, White Girl, Fringette Series, Fantasy, Violet Beauty, Giant Light Blue, Double Light Blue, Gorgeous Bi-Color, Snow Prince.

We also sell wholesale 25 plants or more - Not less than 5 of a variety.

JOHN R. GENT

595 VOSBURG ROAD, WEBSTER, N. Y.

From Rochester take Culver Road through Sea Breeze - 2 miles to Vosburg Road.

Saintpaulia Leaf Rot

(The Florists' Review - May 12 1949)

ATTRIBUTED TO SOLUBLE SALTS

Preliminary experiments conducted by Donald Hickman, a graduate student in the division of floriculture of the University of Illinois, shed some light on the cause of saintpaulia leaves rotting when they come in contact with rims of pots. Salt crusts sometimes form on the rims of the pots, particularly when the plants are subirrigated, and the following experimental results indicate that salt concentrations of considerably less magnitude than those found in these crusts can cause rotting of the saintpaulia leaf petioles.

Cotton, kept constantly moist with distilled water, was placed in contact with the petioles of normally growing saintpaulia leaves. So long as distilled water was used to moisten the cotton, no injury to the petioles occurred. When, however, cotton moistened with a mineral salt solution was placed in contact with similar petioles, collapse of the petioles occurred in a short time. Deterioration of the petioles at the point of contact with the moist cotton was more advanced than in the surrounding area.

In a second series of tests, saintpaulia leaves, still growing and attached to the plants, were subjected to slight but regular drips of distilled water. The water was confined on the petioles by means of paraffin smears just above and below the point of contact. So long as the water was distilled no damage was done to the petioles. When, however, a mineral salt solution was substituted for the distilled water collapse of the petiole occurred. The collapse of the petioles was similar to that which occurs on petioles that rest on the rims of pots.

The results obtained with the drip method show that mineral salt solutions are capable of causing collapse of saintpaulia petioles.

Slight abrasion of the petioles by the rims of pots seems to contribute to collapse only when there is an accumulation of salts present on the rims.

Collapse was more rapid with some salts than with others, but generally occurred within a few days. If, when the first sign of collapse was noted distilled water was immediately substituted for the salt solution, revival occurred.

The salt injury seems to be similar to root injury from an overdose of fertilizers. Mr. Hickman suggests that some type of coating on the rims of the pot, such as metal foil, wax or paint, might stop this loss of lower leaves, which spoils the appearance of saintpaulia plants at maturity.

FANTASTIC GARDENS

It is so easy to propagate EPISCIAS that we are now able to offer these choice tropical plants at reduced prices and also able to list several brand new varieties.

Episcia coccinea—Brownish hairy leaves with silvery green veins ..... $ .75
E. cupreata—Hairy copper-colored leaves ..... .75
E. cupreata var. Viridifolia—Smooth nile green leaves; best bloomer ..... .75
E. cupreata var. Silver Sheen—Leaves bright silver with darker margin 1.00
E. splendens—Smooth light green and silver leaves ..... .75
E. lilacina—Bronze leaves with broad iridescent lilac midrib 1.00
E. sp.—Unnamed, smooth silvery green leaves with brown margin, distinct, free flowering ... 1.50
All above varieties have scarlet flowers
E. chontalensis—Small dark green leaves, light blue fringed flowers 1.00

Collection of above eight varieties—$6.00 postpaid

Orders of $5.00 or over sent postpaid, for smaller orders, add $.50. Will start shipping the end of April.

Send for price list.

R. G. WILSON

Route 2, Box 594, Miami, Florida

AFRICAN VIOLET WIDOWER

Pardon me, did you say African Violets?
Or maybe they're just running thru my head
At home I see them every where I look,
They are even all over my bed.

My darling wife really has the craze,
She has them pink, purple, blue and white.
She transplants them all day long,
And then waters them half of the night.

From dawn 'til dark I hear nothing else,
Its Red Head, Blue Boy, Trilby or Blue Girl,
Amethyst, Sailor Boy, Neptune or Viking,
No wonder my head's in such a whirl.

They're in the bed room, dining room, kitchen
All over the walls and the floor,
They're even in the bath tub,
Every day brings more and more!

So I am an African Violet widower,
I don't know if I'm a husband or not,
I expect to find myself some day,
Planted in a little red clay pot.

S. B. Jack

(Reprinted from Vol. 1 No. 1)

DOUBLE TROUBLE?

Mardie Eckhardt, Md.

I too had "Double Trouble", and last year I said that I was not going to grow doubles any more-- but loving them as I do, I decided to try again.

My trouble was the same as that discussed in an earlier Magazine. I had buds galore but they never opened into nice blossoms. So I decided to investigate when possible and try to see what caused this.

First, I found that, as Anne Tinari recommended, they do need more water. But more water still did not make the buds open.

At this time I had a large Double Russian just loaded with buds and not one would open. While repotting some small plants I thought I would see what repotting would do for this large uncooperating double. To my surprise, when I tried to push it from the pot there was a large air pocket in the bottom where the soil had washed out. This made it hard for the plant to get food and water as easily as it should. I lifted it out of the pot and filled in with soil the space at the bottom. Soon it was apparent that my Double Russian was going to bloom for me. The buds matured and the plant was in full bloom the way I wanted it to be.

Since that time I have had fine results with other plants that were slow to bloom -- I just push them down firmly in the pot and they take hold more readily.

I also take a small stick and push it down in the soil at the side of the pot and add more soil. In some pots I have had to add as much as 1/4 cup. (This will help the plant that is always dropping a leaf at the side.) Firm the soil enough to be sure your plant will not wobble or lose soil out of the bottom of the pot.

Doubles that have the right care will bloom. I now plan to get others, as the flowers stay on so long. I hope that my experience will help those who are having "Double Trouble" to solve their difficulties, so they will be doing as I am — looking for more doubles.

Sulphur and Parathion

Reprinted with permission of Florist Review

Although Parathion has given excellent results with injury only to a limited number of plants (crassulas, Boston ferns, kalanchoes and a few varieties of chrysanthemums), you will run into serious trouble if you use it when the plants have sulphur in any form on them or if you use sulphur while the Parathion is present on the plants.

The length of time necessary to allow between applications of either of these two materials would vary, depending upon the method of application. Observations indicate that it is safe to use sulphur about ten days after Parathion has been applied in aerosol form. If it has been applied as a spray, it seems better to wait a little longer before dusting, spraying or fumigating with sulphur.

To avoid injury and to get the maximum kill, be sure that the temperature is 75 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. When using aerosols, keep the house closed for at least two hours following fumigation; then for additional results close the house down for about two hours each day for the next three or four days to get the full residual effect on the plants. Avoid high humidity, and be sure that the plants are dry when the application is made.

Parathion still looks like the best all-around insecticide for aphis, cabbage loopers, centipedes, crickets, cutworms, rose beetles, white flies, leaf miners, leaf rollers, mealy bugs, midge, mites, sow bugs, thrips and tarnished plant bugs.

Two or four applications may be necessary to win complete control of aphis, greenhouse leaf tiers, leaf miners, leaf rollers, mealy bugs and thrips. Three applications may be necessary on midge.

"TRI-COLOR"

AFRICAN VIOLET JARDINIERE

BEAUTIFUL SOLID BRASS SELF-IRRIGATING - - PLANTS REQUIRE WATERING ONLY ONCE A WEEK FROM THE BOTTOM TROUGH. ELIMINATES ALL DAILY WATERING.

ORNAMENTAL - - ATTRACTIVE

WILL NOT MAR FURNITURE

SIZE 5 INCHES HIGH. LOVELY FLARED TOP ABOUT 5 INCHES WIDE

Simply place clay pot in jardiniere and your violets will keep healthy and blooming. You will be pleased with the gratifying results.

WONDERFUL AS A GIFT FOR YOUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE AFRICAN VIOLETS. SOMETHING BRAND NEW AND ENTIRELY DIFFERENT.

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TWO FINE NEW PRODUCTS FOR YOUR VIOLETS . . . .

VIOLET LAZY SUZAN

Our Violet Lazy Suzan is the last word in proper display for those favorite house plants. A gentle push will revolve the three tiers in the pedestal. This feature enables you to change the position of your plants which is important in the proper culture of plants that receive indirect sunlight. All plants are made readily accessible for watering and other care with practically no effort.

The Suzan is a very useful table in many other ways in the home. It is well constructed of plywood; weighs 17 lbs.; is 40" in height with 10" between tiers. It is 24" in diameter and the tiers will hold 10 to 12 large plants or 20 to 24 small ones. Available in natural finish only or unfinished and ready for staining to match surrounding furniture.

Prices - Parcel Post Prepaid:

Violet Lazy Suzan Unfinished @ $12.50
Violet Lazy Suzan - Finished @ $14.95

Gro-Mulch is the wonderful new all organic material that is being talked about in garden circles. Gro-Mulch is mellowed in the aging deposits of Spanish Moss that have lain for over 50 years in the bayou section of South Louisiana. Earthworms that are attracted by the tender moss particles, have converted the deposits into a superlatively rich soil conditioner. The deposits are recovered, dehydrated, refined and packed into bags for your use.

A mixture of one part Gro-Mulch to two parts of soil will make a superlatively rich medium in which to grow your plants. The luxuriant growth and colorful blooms in greater quantities will delight you.

ASK FOR THE NEW 2 POUND PACKAGE AT YOUR FAVORITE 5 & 10¢ STORE

10 Pound Bag Prepaid Parcel Post @ $2.00

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80 Pound Bag - Motor Freight Collect @ $7.00

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YOU NEED NOT TAKE OUR WORD!

Virdans reputation for integrity, extra care in wrapping and shipping, and highest quality healthy plants is attested to by thousands of customers coast to coast. Here are just a few comments from customers' recent letters:

I received my African Violets today and I am really thrilled with them, they are in perfect condition and far better than I had expected.

You see, I got some from another farm and they were beyond saving, so these being so healthy and strong and so nice packed I am really very happy.

(New York)

I have purchased African Violets from many sources, paying as high as $10.00 for Special plants, but never have I had greater satisfaction than this morning when I received the plants from you.

You may be certain that I shall be a regular purchaser in the future. The plants could not have been in better condition had I purchased them from a florist and carried them away. To think that they came thru the mails, at this time of year, in perfect condition clearly shows the care you take in preparing them for shipment.

(Connecticut)

Please send me 5 pounds of your Virdans African Violet Soil. I ordered 2 lbs. from you in the early fall and like it so much. My new violets are growing so fast and look so healthy in your soil.

(Georgia)

Have had wonderful results with your soil; some of the stamens grow all around the center of flower and the flowers are large and numerous.

(Ohio)

The two Lady Genevas came in today. Like all the other violets I have received from you, they were in perfect condition, big, fine plants, apparently none the worse for their trip. Nothing I can say is too much in praise of your plants.

(Kentucky)

Please send me three 5 lb. bags African Violet Soil at your earliest convenience. My violets are blooming gorgeously and a maidenhair fern to which I gave a taste of the soil has never grown so beautifully. Your soil must have magic, for the foliage as well as the flowers on my plants are the envy of all who see them.

(New Jersey)

Women earn extra cash at home easily, pleasantly by showing Virdans First Aid Kit, Soil, and Plant Tonic to friends and neighbors. Write us for full details if interested.

NEW SPRING VARIETIES

These are all strong, healthy plants, out of 3" pots, in bud or in bloom. Carefully wrapped, shipped insured mail. Guaranteed to arrive in excellent condition—or your money cheerfully refunded.

SNOW GIRL, pure white
SNOW PRINCE, pure white
DOUBLE SEA GIRL
ROSE MARIE
SUPREME DOUBLE NEPTUNE
Deep blue, perfect double flower
GORGEOUS BRONZE BI-COLOR
Deep reddish two-tone blossom, bronze type foliage.

$3.50 each, or 2 for $6.00 postpaid.

VIRDANS PLANT TONIC

Monthly feedings with this tonic will bring even most stubborn plants into bloom. The only plant food prepared especially for African Violets. Generous package lasts for months—only $1.25 postpaid in U. S.

VIRDANS FIRST AID KIT

for African Violets, other house plants. Contains everything needed to protect them from thrips, mealybugs, many dangerous pests. Easy to use, full instructions with each kit. Complete kit by mail only $3.00 postpaid in U. S.

VIRDANS "MAGIC" SOIL

WILL MAKE YOUR VIOLETS BLOOM

Like magic, your African Violets will burst into bloom when you plant them in this specially prepared soil. Thousands of customers' letters prove it. Potting and transplanting instructions in each package. Sterilized with Soilene. 2 lbs. $1.25 postpaid or 5 lbs. for $2.25 postpaid.

USE THIS EASY-ORDER COUPON

WIK-FED POTS

Perfect for African Violets; watering from base creates ideal growing conditions. Bases black, pots in choice of: Blue, Green, Yellow, Ivory, Lavender, Red, Pink; all beautiful Styron plastic. Complete set of pot, base, wick for only $1.15 postpaid; 6 sets for $6.00 postpaid. Order Today.

To: VIRDANS FARMS, Phelps, N. Y.

Gentlemen: Please send me the following:

_____ African violets $_____
(list varieties separately)

_____ Pkgs. Virdans Soil $_____

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_____ WIK-FED pots $_____
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Box 123 Phelps, N. Y.

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TINARI'S MOST BEAUTIFUL AND POPULAR VARIETIES (now at greater production, lower prices) left to right as pictured. Amazon Blue Eyes, $1.00 each. America, $1.75 each. Helen Wilson, $1.50 each. All three for $4.00.

All outstanding varieties at greater production prices.

White Girl, Mammoth Red, Mammoth Blue, White Fringette, Mauve Fringette, $1.50 each.

Fantasy, Red King, Georgeous Bi-Color, Violet Beauty, Blue Flute, Sailor Girl, Amazon Pink, Lav. Girl Hybrid, Double Mentor Boy, Orchid Neptune, Purple Girl, Double Neptune, Pale Orchid Double, $1.00 each, 8 for $7.50, postpaid.

Lady Geneva, Blue Eyes, Red Land, Amethyst, Neptune, Double Margaret, DuPont Blue, Blue Warrior, Burgandy, Jessie, Admiral, Red Bi-Color, Tinted Lady, White Waterlily, Crinkles, Double Orchid, Kewensis, Mentor Boy, Plum Satin, Purple Prince, Pink Beauty, Du Pont Lavender Pink . . . 75¢ each. Ten for $7.00, Postpaid.

Plants chosen from large stock of 100,000 plants.

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Now's The Time To Order

For those who prize loveliness, African Violets will soon transform an ordinary windowsill into a delightful fairyland of rainbow hues! Think of the long winter months just ahead . . don't delay. Order direct from this page.

Miniature BEXLEY Greenhouse

At last what you've always wanted, a precision built miniature greenhouse equipped with four vents and an easy-opening hinged door in the roof! It's fun to start your own prize-winning plants from leaf cuttings. Roots develop quickly through controlled moisture and ventilation; you'll grow more multiple-crowned plants from rare varieties. The BEXLEY makes your profitable hobby even more enjoyable by providing no limit to the possibilities of originating outstanding seedlings.

Clear glass-like plastic top is 4" high, rests on a detachable base which is 1½" deep, big enough to use up a package of our soil.

1 Bexley Greenhouse $2.50. 2 for $4.75 Ppd.

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Economical and dependable varieties priced for beginners

AMETHYST - wonderful orchid flowers . . . $1.25
BiCOLOR - 2-tone orchid and plum $1.25
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BLACK BEAUTY - huge purple $2.25
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Varieties you will be proud to display

LAVENDER BEAUTY see March issue . . $2.50
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RED KING pictured in March issue $2.50
VIOLET BEAUTY described in March issue . $2.50

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Mrs. Jennie Spoutz' Special Steam-Sterilized Soil is mixed just for African Violets. Makes them grow and produces extra-heavy root growth. Packaged in clean moisture-proof plastic bags. Use just as it is, nothing to be added to this high quality product. Price: 1 - 2½ lb. pkg. $1.00
2 Pkgs. (5 lbs.) $1.75 Postpaid.

BRAND NEW!

* LACY GIRL - the fringed flower $3.25
* ROSE MARIE - positively rose color . . . $3.00
* SNOW PRINCE - giant white flowers $3.00

The above 3 varieties fully described in last month's issue of "A. V. M." for 1951!

ILLUSTRATED 28-page CATALOG contains helpful hints on culture and accurately describes all varieties we sell. Write for it today!

MRS. JENNIE SPOUTZ

13310 STATE FAIR NO. 10
DETROIT 5, MICHIGAN

"A Reliable Source of African Violets"

Quality Plants - Quality Packing

LAZY SUSAN

FOR AFRICAN VIOLET LOVERS

Attractive and Sturdy

Holds More than 50 Plants

Adjustable Shelves

The photograph demonstrates the capacity of the table—24 large plants and 36 small plants, (sixty in all) are easily held

An Asset in Any Home

The easy rotation of the shelves allows change of position which is vital to proper plant culture.

Easy to Water Plants

Chrome Plated Tubing

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All Steel Leg Section

Baked on Green Finish
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Height 55 in. Weight 23 lbs.

Shelf dias. 10, 16, 22 & 28 inches

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African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Alma Wright, Editor
Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn.

Mary Parker, Assistant Editor
Harrill Hills, Knoxville 18, Tenn.

Evan Roberts, Research Editor
355 N. Harrison St., E. Lansing, Mich.

Floyd L. Johnson, Advertising Mgr.
79 West Gibson St., Canandaigua, N. Y.

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 West 3rd, Perry, Iowa.

Neil C. Miller, Mgr. Veterans Affairs
Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J.

Contributing Editors - Boyce Edens,
Regina Gottshall H. G. Harvey

News Reporters - Harriet F. Lawton
Emily Hodan Daisy Jones
Warren Gottshall Phyllis Ferrall
Martha Mears Ruth Dahnke
Florence Foltz Laura L. Littig

Homing Pigeon Dept.:
Helen Pochurek, News Editor
14425 McCracken Rd., Cleveland, Ohio

Gladys Canner, Membership Mgr.
Route 1, Creek Rd., Herkimer, N. Y.

OFFICERS

Mrs. Arthur Radtke President
3334 Orion St.
Cincinnati 13, Ohio

Mr. Floyd L. Johnson, 1st Vice-Pres.
79 West Gibson Street
Canandaigua, N. Y.

Mrs. C. H. Harris, 2nd Vice-Pres.
757 Athens Boulevard
Los Angeles 44, California

Mr. Neil C. Miller, Rec. Sec'ty.
Layton's Lake
Penns Grove, N. J.

Mrs. W. P. Dahnke, Corres. Sec'ty.
5611 Newton Road, Route 2
Merriam, Kansas

Mrs. Earl Mutchner, Membership Sec.
606 Richmond Ave.
Richmond, Indiana

Mr. Boyce M. Edens, Treas.
2694 Lenox Rd., N.E.
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EASY TO MAKE HUMIDIFIER

A. H. Dole, Nebr.

Make yourself a simple to operate, inexpensive to construct, humidifier for your greenhouse. It is easy to do.

This is how I made mine—run ⅜ inch (or larger) water pipe to the place where you wish your humidifying unit to be located. Next, put a valve in the line so it will be handy to turn off and on and regulate. At the end of the line have an elbow and nipple pointing downward—directly under this nipple place two or three thicknesses of copper screening, perpendicular, so that the water will dribble down over the screen. In behind the screen set a 6 or 8 inch electric fan. Have the switch for the fan near the water valve for convenience.

Turn the fan on and adjust the flow of water. The fan will blow a fine mist of moisture out into the air and in a little while you will have ample humidity in your greenhouse.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

The Members' Handbook will be thrown as of June 30th.

Please send in corrections as soon as possible. Every effort is being made to have this, our third annual list, as accurate as is possible. Your assistance will be appreciated.

Wasn't the Dayton Meeting Wonderful?

Sincerely,

Alma Wright

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REPORT FROM DAYTON

Another convention has come and gone -- to you who were not there may we say we missed you. You who were there know it was a magnificent convention -- the "best we've ever had" was the comment heard over and over.

From the bottom of our hearts we thank everyone who had a part in it, the local people who worked untiringly, the program committee for that marvelous program, all the exhibitors because we are realizing more and more that the exhibit is a very popular and important part of our annual meeting and all of you who were the audience because you were so appreciative and generous with your praise and approval.

Behind the scenes your Board worked too and I mean really worked and worked, long, long hours. Many points and questions were decided. We are such an infant, in years, as organizations go. We have no precedents to follow and every step we take has to be weighed, gauged and judged. Besides, there is so much to do -- we have grown so fast it is phenomenal really, in the realm of floriculture. Then too, a year in our young life -- I mean the Society's -- is a long time and we get together only once a year.

I also want to thank, and most sincerely, the members of the Board for their interest, their honest courage, and willingness to work -- for work they did. The Board was in session for over twelve hours, sandwiched in between and after meetings.

I believe we all feel pretty well about it though, for a great deal was accomplished and I will attempt to list some of the things that were acted upon. I can list here only a few of the more important matters -- a full report of the meeting will come in our Secretary's report in the September Magazine and when you read it I hope you will agree that we are moving ahead rapidly.

A plan for affiliation of local clubs was worked out and adopted. Among the benefits of affiliation to local clubs is making available to them for their Annual Saintpaulia (Mr. Free please take notice) Show, for certain specified classes, awards from the Society. One of the requirements for local clubs to be eligible for affiliation is, that at least 25% of their membership must be members of African Violet Society of America, Inc. There are other benefits and other minor requirements. This, however, will be explained more fully in the September Magazine.

The Board sanctioned a plan of awards for exhibits -- both commercial and amateur -- at our annual meetings.

The report of the Judging School Committee was accepted -- this report will appear in our September Magazine. It was decided also to make training and qualifying courses for judges available in various sections of the country.

A seal for our Society was adopted and in due time will appear in the appropriate places -- award ribbons, membership cards, and even stationery.

The 'piece de resistance', I'm sure you will all agree, was making available to the Scientific Committee for continuation of our fine research work, a grant of up to TWO THOUSAND ($2000.00) DOLLARS. You who heard Mr. Stimson at Dayton know how beneficial to all of us is this research work, (Mr. Stimson's reports will appear in the Magazine) and the Board feels that this work should be continued.

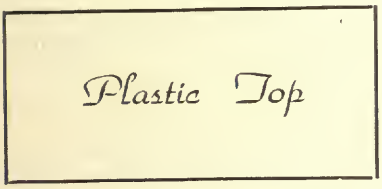
This report in order to make the June Magazine is written at the end of a glorious but demanding convention and is sketchy -- only the highlights were touched -- but more later.

Sincerely,

Myrtle Radtke

East .... Sheltered by shrubbery bed with filtered sunlight and some overhanging branches

North .... Completely open



South .... Broken sunlight from a few overhanging branches

West .... Sheltered by hot afternoon sun by tilting of roof and a hedge which comes part way up

CAN AFRICAN VIOLETS . .

SUMMER OUT OF DOORS?

Harriet Lawton, Mass.

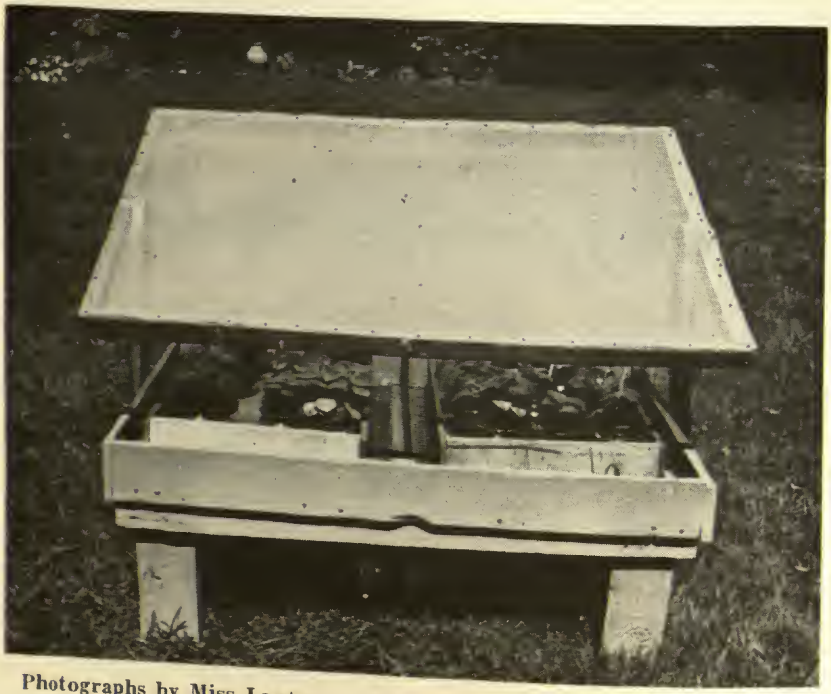
Can African violets summer out of doors? There has been quite a bit expressed about this, both pro and con. The answer is, "Yes, if provided with the proper conditions." They should have a sheltered spot, broken from strong sunlight and protected from high wind and heavy rain.

Some may sink pots in the ground, but I have found that leaves get spattered with mud. It is also easier to care for them if they are raised off the ground. For the last two years I have used a very simple, home-made frame which might be of interest to others in caring for a small number of plants in the open.

This was placed in the bright sunlight in order to get a better snapshot, but the true location of it is as follows: One of the sides was placed under shrubbery with shrubbery on its east. The upper branches of shrubbery extended partly over the southern end and on the west a hedge gave part shelter with the plastic cover tilted to complete shelter from hot afternoon summer sun. The northern end was unprotected.

Number 1

Number 2



Photographs by Miss Lawton

Number 3

The frame is made of stout material and cut to length according to space into which it must fit. 2"x4" uprights are good for the legs, with more than four legs if frame is to be a long one. A brace on the floor and center of the frame should be made, and the floor itself is covered with ½" stout chicken wire. This enables rain to drain through instead of accumulating. Stretched over the frame of the roof is plastic screening which can be bought by the yard. This is waterproof, permits the light to reach the plants but not the hot rays of the sun. The frame of the roof is fastened to two uprights at either end by bolts. This enables one to tilt the roof at an angle or to have it straight, according to direction of driving wind, rain, or sun. Be sure the uprights are sufficiently high so that the roof when at its lowest point will clear the plants.

As for sunlight or light, notice the shadows on No. 1 and No. 2. Compare the deep shadow cast from the solid part of the frame and then note the thin shadow as thrown by the roof. Also, on No. 3 note the diffused light showing the upright through the plastic screening. This is a good example of plants getting plenty of indirect light but not excess heat.

Cared for in this way, they get the benefit of the out of doors, but even if they are kept in saucers, they will not become too wet unless watered. Or, you may wick water them by placing the pots in your glass jars and these in turn in seed flats which makes them easily handled. This makes an ideal way to care for a spill over of plants during the summer months when the house becomes too small for the number.

Streptacarpus Rexii

Center - Episcia cupreata, Streptacarpus (middle back), Diastema pictum (background right)

Right - Streptacarpus

GESNERIACEAE

ARE INTERESTING!

Ruth DeYoung, Minn.

Because of such a wide interest in the African violet relatives, the Gesneriaceae I would like to tell you a little about them and a few of my experiences. To me, they are one of the most interesting and beautiful of plant families. Parts of the following article I wrote long ago, so if it is familiar to some, that is the reason.

The Gesneriaceae, a group of mostly herbaceous plants, are widely distributed in Tropical and South America, Islands of the Pacific, parts of Asia and Africa. The stems are commonly fleshy and prostrate, but the woody, shrubby kinds are climbers. Most of their leaves like a warm bath, the plants resent being watered with cold water, and most of them require some shade. The majority have tubular flowers. (All Gesneriaceae flowers are five lobed), i. e. Bailey.

A general soil mixture of two parts leaf mold, one part sand, one part soil, and one of well rotted manure, seems to fill their needs; if this is not available, any rich soil mixture will do. Though not recommended, I generally water them once a week with liquid manure tea when in the growing stage. (E. Frederick Smith says, "Straight leaf mold, best medium—lots of drainage.")

Achimenes, a Greek word meaning to suffer from cold, are Tropical American

Cont. on page 46

A violet-blue fiddle and a violet-orchid seedling with other plants. Arranged by Helen Pochurek

FOR SHOWS . . . .

VIOLET ARRANGEMENTS

Have you ever taken the time to think about how numerous and far reaching your African Violet Society's interests really are?

Although most members may say that they are not artistic or gifted, or that they just don't know how — many of the members of your club are quite capable; and with a little encouragement will discover that they have quite a flair for arrangements with our lovely violets. They will be happy and willing to work out novel ideas and unusual settings and to share this newly discovered talent with each other. . . . . .

It can add variety, as well as encourage regular attendance at the meetings of the club. It can enlarge the annual show and make it more appealing to the public.

This intensified interest may be brought about by having members prepare unusual arrangements, using single plants and groupings of plants. Special occasions and the seasons of the year may be observed with a little planning.

By using the varied talents and a little imagination, eye-catchingly beautiful and practical creations will be formed from what was thought of, just a few short years ago, as merely a pretty little house plant in a plain clay pot.

"Maypole Dance"

Arranged by Mrs. W. C. Coleman

From the Greeneville, S. C. Show 1950

"Easter". Arranged by Mrs. W. B. Mulligan and Mrs. M. R. Pickler — using a church altar draped in white satin, white candle in brass candelabra (all to scale), and white saintpaulias in small pots.

From the Greeneville, S. C. Show 1950

The "Jewel Table" with shades of green and violet to palest lavender tulle, holding jewel tone violets — from the Flint Michigan Show 1950

Species Nomenclature of the African Violet

Continued, with Special Attention To The

Species Saintpaulia Pusilla

Evan Roberts, Michigan and Harvey Cox, California

Saintpaulia pusilla is another one of the African violet species which was described by Professor Adolph Engler in his Botanische Jahrbucher, volume 28, number 4, July 13, 1900. This article and the accompanying photograph of the drawing were taken from his text which appears in German and Latin. The authors express their appreciation to Mr. Philip Coleman who photographed the drawing.

This African violet species is the smallest of nine described species. It can truly be called a miniature plant as may be noted by looking at the photograph which shows the entire plant in natural size.

We have Mr. W. Goetze to thank for having discovered this Saintpaulia while on a botanical expedition in Tanganyika Territory, East Africa. Fortunately, he prepared a very good herbarium specimen and sent it to Berlin before he died of "Blackwater" fever. This species may be found growing in the primeval forests of the central Uluguru mountains, on the south side of the Lukwangule plateaus, 1200 to 1800 meters on large boulders among moss.

Saintpaulia pusilla Engl. is a very small succulent herb. The leaves are closely crowded on a very short rhizome. A few scattered hairs cover the entire plant. Its tiny leaves have an ovate blade which is shorter than the petiole. The leaf blade is obtuse at both ends and is violet colored underneath. The petiole (leaf-stem) is at least 1½ times longer than the blade although sometimes it is shorter. The peduncles are as long as or longer than the petioles. Bracteols located on the peduncles are minute and lanceolate. The pedicles (flower stems) are slender and the flowers are about equal to them in length. Its tiny flowers consist of narrowly triangular sepals united at their base and a sparsely hairy corolla having a short tube. Upper light blue lobes of the corolla are ovate and are 1½ times shorter than the lateral. Lower lobes are white thus giving a "bicolor" effect by contrasting with the color of the upper lobes. Its two stamens are about equal the lateral lobes in length. Their yellow sacs are ovoid in shape and open inside. The pollen sacs dehisce along a short marginal slit. Stamanoides (rudimentary stamens) are large. Ovary is surrounded at base by a scarlet nectuary which is an ovoid ring-like disc. Ovary is surmounted by a style which is twice as long as ovary and ends in an obovate to ovoid stigma. The fruit is a capsule which is elongated at the base.

Explanation of the Drawing of

Table VII

Photographed by Philip Coleman

A. Entire plant; natural size

B. Longitudinal section of a flower; 5 times natural size

C. Flower opened up; 4 times natural size

D. The anthers from in front and behind; 10 times natural size

E. Sepal, discus and pistil; 7 times natural size

F. Cross section of the ovary; 15 times natural size

G. Young fruit; 3 times natural size (immature)

Saintpaulia pusilla Engl.

J. Pohl delin. Verlag von Wilhelm Engelmann in Leipzig.

ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO . . .

Mrs. Polhammer and Mrs. Harland

A Violet Tea

Margaret E. Schoeverling, Wisconsin

A new way to show your African violets -- and to make a nice sum for your favorite church or charity was demonstrated recently by Mrs. Willard S. Harland, affectionately know to her friends and admirers as "The Violet Lady" and her friend, Mrs. Frank Pohlhammer. They called it "A Violet Tea," and it will be long remembered by every guest.

Well in advance of the date of the tea, the two friends sent out duplicated invitations on violet tinted paper, decorated with charming little violet stickers. The tea was so well organized and so well planned that nothing occurred throughout the entire afternoon to dampen anyone's spirits. Even the weather co-operated, although rather reluctantly. Clouds threatened all afternoon, but no rain fell.

As the guests arrived, they were greeted by their hostesses, and told how they might best see all the violets, which were placed strategically in every room and corridor, and at the head and foot of the staircase. Each guest received a duplicated sheet with advice on the care of the plants, advice drawn from the successful experience of both women, whose violets are a flower show in themselves any day of the year.

The tea was given at Mrs. Harland's lovely country home, between the hours of one and five. The whole house was a veritable fairyland of violets, for there were different kinds in every room. Mrs. Harland has the touch of an artist in arranging her plants -- each was set off to best advantage on either a high or low base, depending on foliage as well as on flowers, and against light walls or white curtains to achieve a delicately lovely yet wholly dramatic effect. The artistic blending and contrasting of the various colors and shades of blossoms created an almost unreal beauty.

This African violet hobby is a friendly give-and-take with both Mrs. Harland and Mrs. Pohlhammer. They do not sell their plants, but give and exchange leaves and plants with other enthusiasts. Many of the violets on display, therefore, had been given to them originally. Each blooming plant was identified by its name and chief characteristics on a small, violet colored

The Kitchen Window

card, and in many cases it was stated that the violet had been given to the owner by a friend. This added to the atmosphere of friendliness and intimacy.

Two hundred and twelve guests signed the guest book, and each one gave whatever contribution she cared to give for the organization benefiting from the tea. Members of the organization took over the pouring and serving of the tea and coffee and the serving of the light refreshments, that the hostesses might be free to greet and mingle with their guests.

Cont. on page 61

The Sunroom

SHOWS AT OMAHA NEBRASKA

The Fourth Midwest African Violet Show

The Fourth Midwest African Violet Show was held at Joslyn Museum in the Floral Court, sponsored by the Omaha African Violet Club on Saturday March 31 and Sunday April 1, 1951 with an attendance of over 8,000 enthusiasts.

The show was staged by Ray Gain. Mrs. T. E. Davis reported that 126 named varieties, 51 unnamed seedlings and 320 plants were displayed. 30 exhibitors and two commercial growers participated. Visitors were from the neighboring Midwest States and from as far east as New Jersey.

In addition to breath taking seedlings grown locally by Mesdames C. C. Andersen the Frill Series, J. W. Hofmann the Ak-Sar-Ben Series, Alex Riechart's, H. P. Galloway's and many others were displayed. Lovely Gloxinias and Episcias, related to the Gesneriacae family were shown in the commercial exhibits of Ray Gain and Hofmann's Hobby House.

Mrs. Ferne Keller of Des Moines, Iowa displayed her choice seedlings. Ulery's Rainbow Series from Springfield, Ohio, Fischer's Double Fringettes and many other new varieties of Linwood, N. J., and from Cecil Houdyshell varieties grown in LaVerne, California, were all flown in for the exhibit and admired with great interest and enthusiasm.

The Floral Court was a natural setting for the Show. Palms and other conservatory plants are growing in the back ground and the wall niches were filled with vases of multi-colored roses against the black tile. A rippling fountain in the center of the room and African violets in all colors adorned the sloping steps.

Mrs. Howard Martin is the Club president.

Left to right, Mrs. Norma Thomas, Marion, Iowa, Mrs. Howard Martin, Omaha, Mrs. Sophie Gordon, Vinton, Iowa. Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Gordon were visitors Mrs. Martin is club president

Left to right, Mrs. William Schafer, show chairman holding a plant of Purple Prince and Mrs. Elmer Lintz, staging chairman holding a plant of Gorgeous

AT TECUMSEH

The African Violet Society of Tecumseh, Nebraska held their Second Annual show at the Tecumseh Community Building, Saturday and Sunday afternoons April 14 and 15. Approximately 1000 guests registered from the four state area, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Missouri.

Between 385 and 400 plants were displayed, 179 distinct varieties were shown, plus four groups of seedlings comprising some 140 plants.

A new pink variety, "Naughty Marietta," was shown for the first time publicly by Mrs. A. C. Hasenyager and Mrs. Fay Gillett and caused much favorable comment.

Seedling Crosses grouped around the parent plants, Blue Girl and Neptune created such a stir that this reporter can well imagine owners of the above varieties going home to hybridize fast and furiously, if that were possible.

Considering the many favorable comments, members of the Tecumseh African Violet Club feel repaid for the concentrated effort which was put forth.

UNWANTED RED HEAD GIRL

The Red Head Girl Photograph by Ross Hahn

Rose Hahn, Tenn.

Ring-g-g-g!

"Hello?"

It was Alma on the phone and talking violets again, almost always our main topic of conversation.

"Rose, I want to get rid of some of my violets, I've just got too many, and I want to make room for some newer varieties."

Naturally, I wanted to know what she wanted to dispose of.

"Well, one is a Red Headed Girl I've had for some time and it has never bloomed, it is sitting out on the back porch now, and I think I'll just throw it away."

In my mind's eye I could see my several hundred plants scattered throughout the house, but I just couldn't see a plant thrown away.

"Alma, I have a Red Headed Girl, but don't throw it away, let me see if I can get it to bloom."

So, I got the Unwanted Red Head. Alma suggested trying to grow it in water alone. I had never tried this and was afraid it would die, but she insisted I try it anyway, which I agreed to do.

This conversation took place the last of November a year ago. She brought the plant to my home, removed it from the pot, washed the soil off the roots, and we put it in a small amount of Hyponex, about one-half teaspoonful. New roots began to grow right away and every Monday morning I carefully lifted the plant out, washed out the bowl, put in fresh water and a little Hyponex (½ teaspoonful) and replaced the plant.

You would have to see the plant to know just how beautiful it is - it's very white roots in the clear bowl of water and topped with lovely scalloped green leaves - and the Blossoms!

The water changing procedure took place every week, and by the middle of January I was amply rewarded by a mass of exquisite two-toned blooms on long stems.

I've always heard that perseverance is rewarded - and now I believe it - as anyone can see by the accompanying picture - lovely, isn't it?

Strawberry Root Weevil And Damaged Leaves

AFRICAN VIOLET TROUBLE IN CONNECTICUT

Fay Stilwell

Early in July, I noticed the center of one of my young violets appeared to be all crinkled up as though it might be infested with mite, although just a couple of days previously, it had appeared perfectly normal. On closer examination with a small magnifying glass, I found that the young center leaves were not curled but the tips had been eaten, giving them the appearance of mite damage. I then noticed a number of leaves rooting in a low flat dish had big pieces eaten out of the edge, and on looking on the underside found several small insects having a feast. They were eating around the edge of the leaves, also the main fleshy veins and the underside of the stems. I also found whole flower stems laying on the window seat under my violets that had been chewed right off about half an inch from the crown of the plant, even some of the flowers had been devoured.

Examination of all the plants in that window disclosed that the underside of many of the leaf stems on young plants had spots starting to decay that looked as though they had been lying on the edge of the pot for some time but had been damaged by the insects. These affected spots were less than an inch from the crown and not near the edge of the pot. I also found these insects squeezed in between the leaf stems eating right on the crown of some of the plants. This all showed up within a few days of the time I first noticed damage.

On my older plants that had been sodium selenate treated there was very slight damage in just one or two instances, but there were dead insects on top of the soil and on the window seat under those particular plants, the plants badly damaged being young plants I had not yet treated.

I collected several of these insects and sent them in to our Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and they were immediately identified as the strawberry root weevil (Brachyrhinus ovatus). I was advised that these weevils have been causing considerable trouble in Connecticut during the past two years in nursery plantings of conifers, particularly hemlock, American arbor vitae and yews. As there is a large commercial nursery only a short distance from our home and we have several arbor vitae trees around the house, evidently these weevils moved in to feed on the trees and decided to come in the house looking for greener pastures.

On thing that concerns me most about this infestation is the manner in which the bug works. When only about ten days old, the adult weevil lays eggs on the soil which hatch in about another ten days. The larvae are white in color, and are less than a quarter of an inch in length with no legs. Outdoors they feed on the root system of trees until cold weather, when they work downward in the soil to a depth of six to fourteen inches to spend the winter. In the spring they work up-

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VIOLETS IN TIERS

Anna Ryder, Ohio

No, my violets are not in t-e-a-r-s, although they are fenced in. They are perfectly happy in their new tier-tables.

For a couple of years, I had been visualizing shelves in front of the double window in my dining room to accommodate my house plants. Since this had not as yet materialized and the number of my violets had increased by leaps and bounds, I put on my "thinking-cap" to concoct something that would accommodate more violets than the narrow shelves would hold and then find someplace else to put the other house plants.

Also, since these windows face the south, I was fearful of the violets having too much sunshine at times, if they were placed on shelves so close to the window panes. So I conceived the idea of the tier-tables, the lower one of which is on casters and can be rolled away from the windows if necessary.

My husband helped me build the tables which we made from scraps of lumber on hand. Each table is equipped with a galvanized pan which we had made to fit. This avoids the use of saucers under the pots. I finished the tables with a coat of maple varnish stain to somewhat tie in with the maple furniture of the dining room.

The finished product, with those galvanized pans showing so plainly made me want to say, "Your slip is showing." Therefore I just had to do something about it. So I put on my "thinking-cap" again and came up with the idea of using some lath taken out of the bass-wood porch blinds

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Mrs. Ryder and her tier-table

Mrs. Bowles, plant grown from a leaf out of water from November 2nd to January 13th

Viking plant grown from a leaf out of water from February 7th to March 11th

YOU CAN . . .

Forget About the Water

CARRY YOUR LEAF CUTTINGS WITHOUT FUSS OR BOTHER

THEY ARE TOUGHER THAN YOU THINK THEY ARE

Lorna Anderson, Mich.

I have tried saintpaulia leaves at many different temperatures and varying humidities. I have tried many varieties and sizes of leaves. I have tried them in open rooms and in closed boxes resting on cotton. The pictures show the results of this experiment.

For those who wish to bring home leaves while away from home visiting for one, two, or three months, it is a very convenient method.

I prefer the smaller leaves -- about the first or second row from the center of the plant. Place the leaves on cotton or a flat box that will fit into your purse. Carry them home his way.

When you reach home cut off a small portion of the stem, and stand them in water for 24 to 48 hours to perk them up.

Root them in your favorite way. I like to dip mine in rootone and set them in vermiculite.

If the leaf turns brown it will not revive -- it can get tissue paper thin and still survive.

So go ahead and trade leaves with your friends and forget about the water!

Mrs. Wangberg is shown here watering one of her attractive plants.

LET'S VISIT

Visiting with Maxine Wangberg is not only a pleasure but an education as well. Her home town of Perry, Iowa, is as pleasant as is our hostess. Coming from the East we drive down a beautiful, maple shaded avenue that undoubtedly has a name, but unfortunately, we never notice street names—probably this is the reason we usually get lost.

The Wangberg's story and a half, white frame home is nicely placed in its wide yard among trees. Attached to the garage we espy her greenhouse, and our feet naturally want to follow our eyes. However, the saying "the longest way 'round is the shortest way home" applies to violet visitors, due to the necessary courtesies. Treating the greenhouse as a dish of our favorite dessert —keeping the best for last—we approach the front door.

Maxine greets visitors with her nice welcoming smile and we realize that we are having the dessert first after all. Mr. Wangberg is, unfortunately, away at business, but Martin, Jr., has just returned from school and Karen is still rubbing an afternoon nap from her eyes, so we are properly introduced. We are seated in the living-room "Champing at the bit" while Maxine, with a mischievous twinkle keeps popping questions, "Do you know- - -? Do you have - - -? Have you seen - - -? Finally after we have suffered to the end of our endurance—and she knows it—she asks, "Would you like to go out and see the plants?" We are, uncouthly, half way to the door before she finishes the sentence.

In the yard we appreciate this plant, and that bush, and a special grouping, because our "mother's teachings" have asserted themselves and we are politely interested. We learn, during our too brief visit, the reason for the delay in being ushered to the greenhouse and that the mischievous smile was in part one of apprehension. We had followed too soon in the wake of one deflating individual who, upon first sight, exclaimed, "Oh my, your plants aren't even in it with mine. Mine are so much larger!" Maxine, of course, did not realize that Saintpaulia collectors fall into one of two classes:

those whose plants are always larger, better bloomers than those of all other collectors; or, those who, every time they see another collection, want to return home and immediately consign all their inferior weeds to the compost heap and begin anew. WE are of the latter class.

Maxine had no need for apprehension, for her plants are lovely. Possibly we have seen one or two plants that were larger but, if so, they were in a collection of a few plants where more space afforded larger development.

When Martin, Sr., married Maxine she brought, as her "dowry," a "plant or two" of the genus Saintpaulia because she "liked them." Some time later she heard of a "red" violet and the resulting search became the beginning of a self-supporting hobby. Later correspondence and a meeting with Ferne Keller cemented a friendship and furthered her collecting desires. The fact that she could not help "putting down a leaf" soon necessitated the greenhouse and the eventual sale of blooming plants. These sales now support a hobby—which few of us can afford—and her only compensation is that of her love for African violets and her ability to raise them successfully.

"It's clean" is the greatest tribute that can be said of any greenhouse and certainly applies to this one. We are confronted by several new "wrinkles." The greenhouse of the Wangberg's has an extra series of small low windows just above the ground and below benches. These windows have a purpose, as we soon learn. There is no need to clutter the space beneath the benches with pots, potting mixtures, etc., for it is the locale of propagation.

Maxine is a believer in the terrarium also, but for this purpose she utilizes old glass battery jars from the local auto salvage yard. These jars are about one-fourth full of her rooting medium—equal parts of peat, sand and vermiculite. Leaves from her plants are cut with about two inches of petiole for propagating. The petiole is inserted through a piece of heavy paper bear-

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HANGING BASKETS

Lottie Bowman, Tenn.

Why hanging baskets happen I do not know, but most of my plants that have had baskets sucker freely. Blue Amethyst in the description that follows seems to have more baskets and larger ones. They naturally show up as the plant has long stems and not such heavy foliage.

Amethyst Plant — Size twelve inches across with two baskets six inches across hanging on five inch stems. Nice shape and foliage.

Blooming period — The plant started blooming at six months and bloomed freely, with large blossoms and continued blooming without any rest period. I gave the plant food each week.

Basket Blooming Period—First — These plants began blooming when small, 2½ to 3 inches across. The plant was 1 year old, and the baskets about 5 months. The baskets had 8 or 10 blossoms pin head size, but with perfect shape and color. S econd —The baskets had a rest period of 4 or 5 weeks. The next blossoms were ⅓ size of the plant blossoms for an average Amethyst blossom. Rest period about 4 weeks. Third—This time the blossoms were ½ size of plant blossoms. In other words, blossoms were larger each time the baskets bloomed. They did not hold their blossoms long. The buds would appear, bloom out but no new ones would form until after the rest period.

To my sorrow, I lost this plant during the summer. I would like to describe the destructive worms. I'm sure they were brought in from the garden. I first discovered small round holes in the leaves—getting my magnifying glass I discovered dozens of perfect shaped measuring worms all colors, standing on their heads boring a hole in the foliage. I used the Clorox treatment: two teaspoons of Clorox to one quart of warm water, covering the whole plant. Then with my magnifying glass I could see the worms wiggling out and coming to the top of the water. This got rid of the worms, but the plant was too far gone to save. I am wondering if the basket blossoms would have ever been the size of the plant blossoms.

Trilby Plant

I am still experimenting with baskets; at present I have a Trilby that is far from pretty, but odd.

Trilby Plant — 1½ years old. It has six baskets extended on 3½ inch stems from the stalk or the plant. They have typical Trilby foliage and the curled baskets measure 3½ inches and 4 inches across. Four stems have only 1 basket, and 2 stems have 2 baskets, and 1 stem has 3 baskets.

With baskets on baskets, this plant has grown fast, bloomed freely, suckered abundantly. I have kept all suckers off after this plant stopped blooming. I removed all leaves from the plant just leaving the crown. This has given the baskets strength and they have grown much faster. The original plant has reproduced baskets twice. I now have quite a few Trilbys from this plant at blooming stage. I am wondering if there will be the third generation of baskets? My next move will be to take the entire crown out giving all the strength to baskets.

Using SODIUM SELENATE or PARATHION on AFRICAN VIOLETS

J. R. Hoffman, Department of Entomology, Michigan State College, E. Lansing Mich.

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Sodium selenate and parathion are extremely poisonous materials and are not generally recommended for home use. Due to the very poisonous nature of these materials they should never be left or stored where children may get into them. All precautions recommended here and on the package or container labels of the insecticide should be observed. Food plants should not be planted in soils containing sodium selenate for at least one year after the last application of this chemical to the soil.

SODIUM SELENATE

Precautions: Keep sodium selenate solutions off of the skin, and wash the hands thoroughly after handling sodium selenate or sodium selenate solutions.

Dissolve 100 grams (3½ oz.) of sodium selenate in 1 gallon of water to prepare a stock solution. This stock solution should be kept in a well stoppered jug plainly labelled "Sodium Selenate - POISON".

Dilute the stock solution at a rate of 1 oz. (fluid) of stock solution to 100 oz. (fluid) of water. Water the potted plants with this stock solution in the normal way. Do not get the solution on the foliage. Sodium selenate solutions should be used only on well established and growing plants, and should not be used on newly transplanted or very young plants. One, or at most two, applications of sodium selenate solution per year in this manner should be sufficient.

PARATHION

While parathion, because of its highly poisonous nature, is not generally recommended to the home flower grower for pest control, it may be used under certain conditions for pests which are extremely difficult to control by other methods. Only two methods of use are recommended for parathion, spraying and dusting. Both of these methods should be carried out in a well ventilated area. Care should be taken to avoid contaminating with parathion residues, food stuffs and places and spaces where foods are handled or prepared for use.

When parathion sprays or dusts are used, proper precautionary and protective measures should be employed. An approved type of parathion chemical cartridge respirator should be worn, protective clothing (which should be aired and laundered between uses) should be worn as well as a hat to cover the hair, and rubber gloves. After using the sprays or dusts all exposed parts of the body should be thoroughly washed with soap and water. If any of the spray solution is spilled on the body it should be washed off as soon as practical with soap and water. Read the label on the container in which the parathion spray or dust materials are obtained for complete precautionary measures which should be followed.

Sprays: Parathion sprays are prepared from 15% parathion wettable powders. The 15% parathion wettable powder should be mixed at a rate of 1½ pounds to 100 gallons of water, or for smaller amounts this is equivalent to 1½ tablespoons to each gallon of water. Complete and thorough coverage of the plants with the spray is necessary for good pest control. For mites and mealy bugs several applications of the spray at 1 week intervals are recommended.*

Dusts: For the dusting of plants with parathion a 1% parathion dust is recommended. For the best and most effective results for pest control, complete and thorough coverage of the plants with the dust is required. For mites and mealy bugs several applications of the dust at weekly intervals may be necessary.* After treatments are completed unsightly dust residues may be removed from the plant and foliage by a gentle washing with warm water.

*Cyclamen mites offer the worst problem of control because of their very small size and their ability to hide in the flower buds. Once in the buds they are protected from the insecticide (parathion) and complete elimination is nearly impossible. The mites may be kept under control with parathion during the flowering stage of the plant by monthly treatments with parathion. The two-spotted spider mite is larger than the cyclamen mite and does not get into the closed flower buds. This mite is much easier to control with parathion. Cyclamen mites are best controlled with sodium selenate when the plants are in bud, but may be controlled with parathion on young and non-flowering plants.

GROWING SHOW PLANTS

Quixie Nichols, Tenn.

The Nashville African Violet Club had its first large show last spring at the Hermitage Hotel. There were over three hundred entries, among which were many beautiful specimen plants. They were for the most part grown in the homes of the club members who, of course, are amateurs. It proved conclusively that beautiful, clean, symmetrical plants, filled with bloom, can be grown by other than professional growers.

The plants reflected the consistent care that is so necessary to growing perfect plants. While some varieties grow into beautiful symmetrical plants with very little extra care, others need daily turning and sometimes they even require spacing of the leaves. I took toothpicks and placed on either side of the petioles for a few days until the leaves grew as I wished, after which I removed the toothpicks. This is necessary as some plants just will not shape up as you wish with the daily turning.

The surest way to grow a lovely prize winning plant is to start with a small plant, single crown of course. Dip the top of a 2½ inch pot in paraffin to prevent petioles from burning or bruising on edge of pot. I use a good light soil made up of about 1/3 leaf mold with pieces of half rotted leaves with straw etc., and the remaining 2/3 a mixture of broken charcoal, sand, some well rotted manure, and some Georgia peat, all of which is sterilized before using. Place plant in center of pot being careful to anchor well, but be sure crown is not covered. When the plant gets large enough to reach over edges of pot shift to a 3 inch standard or 4 inch azalea pot.

Keep plants well watered at all times, as more have been damaged by getting too dry than ever have by too much water. Never allow a pot to sit in water over six to twelve hours. Plants always suffer from standing in water over a period of time.

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Mrs. Maddox left holding a plant of Blue Girl Mrs. Nichols right holds a plant of Blue Warrior

VIOLET PARADISE

DESCRIBED IN THIS STORY IS DORLENE THE BEAUTIFUL PLANT WITH THE VARIEGATED BLOSSOMS FEATURED ON THE FRONT COVER

Ethel Thalheimer, Cal.

On a 150 foot cliff by the shore of the Pacific Ocean is a home that gives pleasure to many besides the family of three wonderful people, Genevieve Marsh, her husband, Ira, and their daughter, Dorlene. It is a paradise for African violets.

The house faces the ocean with a deep porch across the front. One violet DID adorn the dining room window, and that was the beginning. The breakfast room is to the east. That exposure is all glass, so Ira put up three adjustable shelves for the increasing collection. As the plants outgrew these shelves, they were put in the dining room in front of the plate glass windows, and to their back is a plate molding displaying a beautiful collection of hand painted plates, cups and saucers. Yes, some have violets painted on them. Next, the music room had violets at the windows and Dorlene, now twelve years old, became interested and wanted some violets of her own to grow in her room. That was fine, but she wanted to learn to propagate them.

The family went into a huddle and of course "the men always have to pay," so Ira was elected to glass in the east end of the porch for a propagating room. For two years, Genevieve has worked to con-

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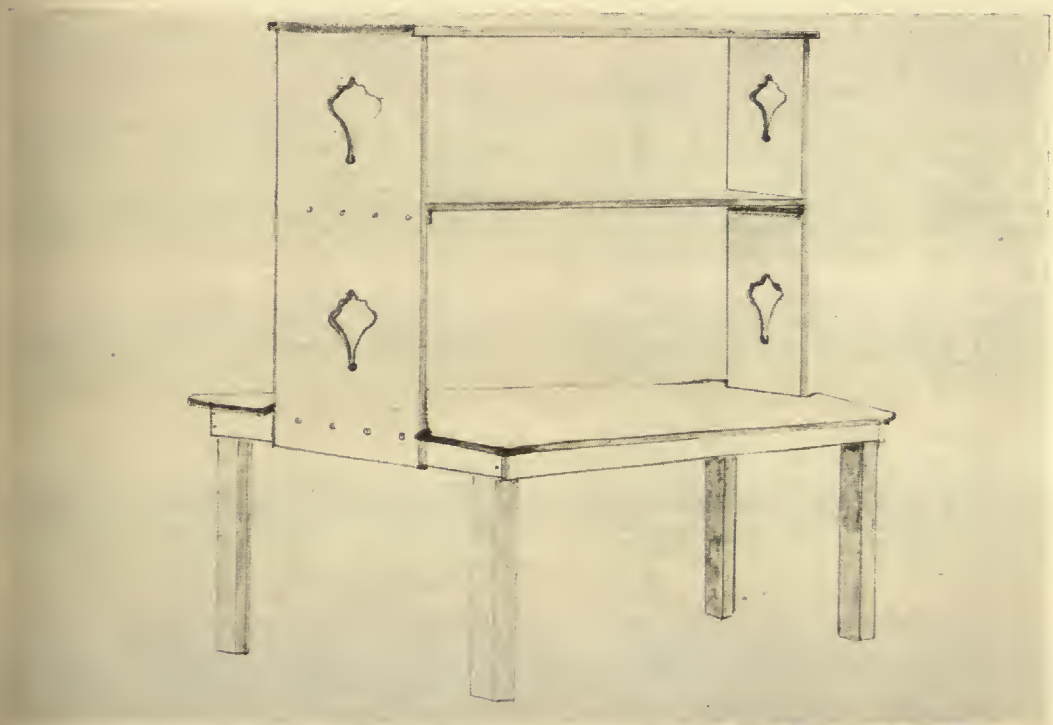

The Marsh Growing Bench

PRACTICAL

PLANT STAND

Mrs. Driebel

Katherine C. Driebel, Ind.

We are very enthusiastic about our method of growing African violets—on a stand, and feel it is a wonderful way to do so when one has a limited window space.

Three and a half years ago, we moved to our present location. We have a large house but lots of violets and we didn't have enough windows for them.

One day I thought, "Why can't they be grown under artificial light?" My husband agreed we try it, so he planned and built the stand himself.

It is made of steel, about forty-eight inches long and five feet high. The trays are made of galvanized steel. They are painted on the outside but not inside; they are about two inches deep and two feet wide.

At first, we used twenty watt daylight fluorescent bulbs twenty-four inches long, but now, as you can see in one of the pictures, we have forty watt lights, forty-eight inches long. They are as long as the trays.

When we first built the stand, we could hardly wait to get it ready to place our plants in their new home. We filled the trays with vermiculite. We placed well started small plants and some that didn't seem to have a good start in the trays and awaited results.

Honestly! It was a surprise to us how quickly the plants began to take on a rich color, and they grew so fast. We have found that all plants grown in this way have wonderful foliage and rich color.

We had to take out some of the varieties that grow tall, such as Frieda, Red Spoon, White Beauty, and others; they just about touched the other trays, but they had started to bloom and kept right on doing so.

Some plants have been in bloom since last Spring and have never stopped. Some that were divided and repotted started to bud and bloom right away.

The simplicity of it all is what intrigues us. One can take care of a large number of plants with so little effort. At present, I have nearly two hundred in the trays.

Of course, when a new plant comes to our collection, it is put aside until we know it is all right to put in the trays with the others.

The lights are left on all day, but are turned off at night. The plants are watered by pouring water in the trays. They get light, humidity and water all at the same time. These three things, I think, are the main factors in raising African violets. We find it very inexpensive to operate after the initial cost.

When one has a limited window space for plants, this stand is the solution. It can be built any size and one may use any size bulbs. Our stand is painted white, but it could be painted any color to blend with the color scheme of a room.

For people living in the city in smaller homes or apartments, or any one who has wanted to raise African violets and didn't have the light, I wish to recommend a stand and fluorescent lights—using daylight bulbs. We are so pleased with ours that we are planning to build a bigger one.

I do hope our experiment will help others who have wanted to grow African violets but felt they did not have the light or space to grow them. As you can see in the picture, more lights and more plants have been added, since the first picture was taken.

Mrs. Coniber and part of her collection

Mrs. Coniber's

COLLECTION

Velma M. Brocker, N. Y.

In Batavia, N. Y., halfway between Rochester and Buffalo, Mrs. Elroy Coniber is becoming known as the "African Violet" lady. Here, at her home at 16 Richmond Ave., Batavia, she has a collection of about 175 varieties, and over a thousand plants.

About fifteen years ago, while a patient in the local hospital, she received as a gift a common variety of this plant, "Blue Boy." This original plant is still in her collection, and she has long since lost count of the number of plants started from this one variety.

Next, she had an Ionantha, then a pink one, and then a white one. Soon the names began to be important, and the identification of various plants was learned. However, her family kept her busy, and she was content to keep several plants in bloom, starting others to give her friends. Then as her two boys grew older, she found more time to read about African violets, and as this plant was becoming more popular, she found more information available to read.

About three years ago, Mrs. Coniber began collecting new varieties and giving serious thought to her hobby. Now her collection is something at which to marvel - and the range of colors, size of blooms, and difference in foliage, delight anyone interested in these lovely blooms.

At the rear of the Coniber house is a large room with windows on three sides, strictly an African violet room, and here

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THE USE OF COLCHICINE IN PLANT BREEDING

By HAIG DERMEN, cytologist (in fruits) and S. L. EMSWELLER, principal horticulturist (in floriculture), Division of Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases, Beltsville, Md.

Permission to reprint obtained from
U. S. Department of Agriculture

Colchicine, a poisonous medicinal chemical, has been used since 1937 in plant breeding work to produce changes in plants by doubling the number of chromosomes in cells, a condition referred to as **polyploidy.** The increased number of chromosomes usually brings about an increase in size of the affected cells and various degrees of changes in their functions. In contrast with the normal plants, those developed by colchicine treatment often show changes in height and width; in thickness of branches; in size, shape, and texture of leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds; in fertility of flowers; and in physiological responses. However, the degree of changes produced when the chromosome number is doubled cannot be predicted, and "magic" changes referred to by some popular writers are not to be expected. The visual changes induced in some plants are so small that even an experienced person will have difficulty in recognizing them.

Colchicine is extracted from either the seeds or the corms of **Colchicum autumnale** L. (meadow saffron or fall crocus) and may be bought in very small quantities in powder form from certain chemical concerns. A small quantity of colchicine can be used to treat a large number of plants, seeds, or other types of material, if applied without undue waste. Where a dipping method is used, the solution may be used several times. Generally colchicine is used in water solution in concentrations from as low as 0.02 percent up to 1.00 percent. The assistance of a druggist may be obtained in preparing desired percentages and quantities of solutions.

In handling colchicine, extreme care should be taken to keep it out of the eyes, to avoid possible dangerous consequences; and the hands should be washed after contact with the chemical to prevent possible skin irritation.

How Colchicine Works

The colchicine solution affects plant cells during the division stages and has no apparent effect on nondividing cells. In normal cell divisions the chromosomes split lengthwise, and each half chromosome migrates to the opposite sides of the cell. A new cell wall forms between the two masses of chromosomes and thus two daughter cells are formed, each having the same number of chromosomes as the mother cell. If colchicine is present in the dividing cell, the chromosomes split but are held together at one point and do not migrate to the opposite sides, and the division of the cell is prevented. Thus, from the colchicine treatment there results a cell with twice as many chromosomes in its nucleus as the same cell had previous to treatment. After such initial chromosome doubling, if the colchicine diffuses away from the plant tissues or becomes so dilute as to be ineffective, the nuclei in the cells with the double chromosome number can divide normally to form daughter cells but with the double number of chromosomes. In addition to doubling the number of chromosomes, colchicine treatment has at times been found to cause addition or loss of one or more chromosomes in both the normal and the double types.

It is obvious from the way colchicine affects plant cells that applications will be most effective if the material to be treated is growing vigorously, so that many cells are dividing. Treatment of dormant seeds, scales of lily bulbs, and similar material, however, has induced polyploidy, presumably because colchicine penetrates the seeds and scales and is maintained there for some time until cell divisions have begun; after this the colchicine becomes effective.

Types of Changes Induced

In the terminal growing points of shoots and in lateral buds, there appear to be three cell layers, more or less distinct, each of which gives rise to a

separate tissue or a tissue system or to areas in a tissue in the stem, leaves, and other plant organs. The outer cell layer of the growing point of the shoot or bud generally gives rise to a one-cell thick tissue, the epidermis. The next layer to it may give rise, depending on the kind of plant, to either a layer of tissue one-cell thick immediately under the epidermis, or to several layers, including the outer portions of the cortex. A third layer may give rise to the remaining tissues in the stem. Pollen grains and egg cells originate in the tissue derived from the second of the three layers just described.

Colchicine treatment may affect one cell layer and not the others, or any two layers may be affected and the remaining layer not be affected, or all three may be affected. This last possibility is rarer than the first two. Experiments have shown that polyploidy resulting from colchicine treatment may be of three main types:

1. **Epidermal-polyploidy.** — Enlargement of stomates (breathing pores) on leaves subsequent to treatment indicates that the epidermis or outermost layer of the material is polyploidized, but it does not indicate that internal tissues are changed. If the internal tissues are not polyploidized, this type of change may be called epidermal-polyploidy.

2. **Internal-polyploidy.** — Any change in which a layer of cells or a tissue or tissues beneath the epidermis are made polyploid but in which the epidermis remains normal may be called internal-polyploidy. This type of polyploidy may be of three kinds: (a) Only the tissue immediately under the epidermis is polyploidized; (b) The inner tissues are polyploidized, but the tissue for a number of cell layers beneath the epidermis remains normal; (c) All the inner tissues become polyploidized, the epidermis of the plant alone remaining normal. Enlarged pollen grains from flowers of a treated plant indicate that at least the tissue next to the epidermis is polyploidized from the colchicine treatment. Polyploidy in the conductive tissue of the stem makes branches more stocky. Leaves become larger and broader in any kind of internal polyploidy. Flower petals and especially the anthers are chiefly affected if the tissue next to the epidermis is polyploidized. Chromosome counts in the cells of roots of a vegetative cutting would show whether or not the conductive tissue of the stem is polyploid. Such an examination of roots of seedlings treated by colchicine does not indicate whether the above-ground portion of a seedling is affected by colchicine treatment or not.

3. **Total-polyploidy.** — A plant in which all the tissues are polyploidized may be designated a total-polyploid.

The extent of polyploidy can best be determined by examining under a high-power microscope parraffin sections of treated material taken from the very tip of a vigorously growing branch suspected of polyploidy. In such preparations, one must determine the chromosome number in a number of cells in each tissue system mentioned above to find out exactly what tissue system is polyploidized. Size of cells or of nuclei or of mere chromatin mass alone is not sufficient to determine the absolute extent of polyploidy in the treated plant.

From the results on induced polyploids it has been shown that the degree of fertility of these plants is usually affected. In a number of cases sterile hybrids resulting from hybridization between species of the same or closely related genera have been made fertile by chromosome doubling, while with others that has not been possible. Often where the plants have been highly fertile, they are made less fertile. Lessening of the fertility or inducing complete sterility by polyploidy may not always be deleterious. Where, for instance, plants are propagated vegetatively and grown for leaves and flowers or other plant parts, sterility may even be desirable. In such fruits as strawberries and raspberries, lowering of fertility causes numerous seeds to fail to develop and results in partially developed and deformed fruits. However, such plants may become of great value as breeding material.

A number of reports indicate that besides quantitative changes in plants resulting from polyploidy there also have been changes of qualitative character. These may be in color intensity of leaves and flowers; in fragrance of leaves, flowers, or other plant parts; and in content of oils, starches, sugars, vitamins, etc. Fundamentally these changes that are ordinarily considered qualitative are mostly, if not entirely, changes of quantitative nature, since they result from either an increase or a decrease of the various products naturally present in the plants.

Methods of Treatment and Detection of Polyploidy

The colchicine solution at the beginning and during the time of treatment should be at room temperature. With small seedlings or fast-growing herbaceous

plants it is best that the treatment be made with as weak a solution as may be effective, as early in the active growth of the plant as possible, and for a relatively short period of time. Application of a strong solution or a prolonged treatment may prevent growth of the treated material or even kill it. Success in the treatment of growing material is based on the principal that the chemical should reach the regions of growth; therefore, the manner of treatment depends upon the type of material to be treated. A few of the methods, which may be modified to suit the material and the inclination of each experimenter, follow:

1. **Seed treatment.** -- Seeds of many varieties of plants have been soaked in a 0.2 percent to 1.6 percent (usually 0.2 percent) solution for 1 to 10 days before planting. Soaking of seeds should be done in a very shallow container so that the seeds are not deprived of oxygen. Seed treatment methods should be used only for seeds that germinate quickly. In the case of slow-germinating seeds, the treatment should be deferred until the seeds commence active germination, in which case the treatment is fundamentally the same as with seedlings.

2. **Seedling treatment.** -- Freshly germinated seeds are kept immersed in about 0.2 percent colchicine solution in a shallow container, or placed on filter paper or blotting paper spread out in shallow dishes and thoroughly wet with the solution, for 3 to 24 hours, depending upon how rapidly the seedlings are growing and how bulky they are. If the material is suitable, the young seedlings may be treated as follows: The root ends are placed on a strip of absorbent cotton thoroughly wet with water and the seedlings are then rolled into a bundle; the cotton covers the root ends and forms a plug that will fit loosely in a small vial. The bundle of plants is then inverted and placed in the vial with only the stem ends immersed in or in contact with the water solution of colchicine. By this method the root system is kept moist and practically unaffected by the chemical, thus preventing some of the mortality that usually follows treatment of whole seedlings. When seeds are germinated in the dark the resulting seedlings, being longer than normal, are often suitable for this type of treatment.

Another method is: Plant seeds, well spaced, in pots or flats. When seedlings have emerged from the soil and the cotyledons or the first one or two leaves have opened, place a small amount of 0.2 to 0.5 percent colchicine solution between the cotyledons or over the vegetative growing point. To each 10 cc of colchicine solution should be added 2 to 4 drops of 10-percent solution of Santomerse (a product of the Monsanto Chemical Company, St. Louis, Missouri) or a similar wetting-detergent agent, such as Dreft, a household detergent used as a substitute for soap. Leave some seedlings untreated for comparison with the treated ones. The growth of the treated seedlings will be retarded in comparison with the untreated ones if the treatment is at all effective.

3. **Treatment of growing shoots and buds.** -- Tips of rapidly-growing shoots or an entire growing bud may be treated by placing a drop or more of the colchicine solution over the tip, once or several times, or by immersing the growing tip for a number of hours in a vessel containing the solution. The tips of growing shoots may be smeared with a mixture of 0.5 to 1.0 percent colchicine in lanolin. All these methods have given satisfactory results, particularly with herbaceous plants. Woody and semi-woody plants (buds or young shoot tips) require a somewhat different treatment. For those, one of the following solutions is recommended: (1) 0.5 to 1 percent colchicine in a 10 or 20 percent water solution of glycerine; or (2) 0.5 to 1 percent water solution of colchicine. In order to facilitate penetration and spreading of these solutions, a very small amount of a wetting or spreading agent (see above) should be added.

Another method is: Cut off the very tip of a vigorously-growing shoot and wet with the colchicine solution the lateral buds three or four times at four-day intervals. Lateral shoots growing from untreated areas should be destroyed. Colchicine effect should be looked for in those buds or shoot tips that are partially retarded in growth as a result of the treatment. The effectiveness of the treatment may be judged from the distorted growth of a number of the leaves emerging after the treatment.

It is advisable to limit the treatment to one shoot on a cutting or grafted shoot; the rest should be cut off. Shoots that are to be treated should be allowed to grow some 6 inches or more before the tip or lateral buds are treated. The older leaves on such shoots should be left to furnish nutrition for the plant.

In woody material total polyploidy affecting the whole new growth very seldom occurs. The effect may often be confined to a narrow sector, to a certain primary tissue, or to a limited portion of such

tissues. When buds do not show any retardation as compared with nontreated material a few days after the treatment, it may indicate that the treatment has not been effective; therefore, such buds should immediately be prepared again for treatment and retreated.

Colchicine-induced polyploidy can often be recognized in leaves that are larger and broader than normal, or in part of a leaf (often a half, one side of the midrib) that is larger than the other part and different in texture. Such leaves should be looked for in parts of the treated material that develop from the main growing point after the treatment or from axillary buds that were present in the treated regions. Polyploid branches may be grown from buds in the axils of the changed leaves by cutting off the part above these leaves. If no change is detected, then buds that were very young and were developing at the time of treatment and which may subsequently have remained dormant may be forced into growth on a possible chance that they have been affected by the treatment and contain the desired changes. Any extraneous growths that may hinder growth in the treated part should be constantly eliminated.

When a polyploid sector is discovered in an otherwise normal stem, it should, if possible, be forced to grow out into a branch; the propagation of such a branch by grafting or rooting (depending on the type of plant) should not be delayed. A polyploidized sector as such may not continue to grow indefinitely parallel with a normal tissue in the same stem, and eventually may be lost as the stem develops. Perhaps a slower rate of growth of polyploid tissues in the same stem with normal tissues may account for such a loss.

4. **Treatment of bulbs and corms.** -- The terminal growing points in bulbs and corms are buried within a mass of scales or other storage tissues and are therefore difficult to reach with colchicine. In the case of tulips, narcissus, bulbous iris, and onion the colchicine may be introduced into the growing regions by a hypodermic needle. In gladiolus, penetration of colchicine solution into small cormels has been achieved under a partial vacuum. This method might prove effective also with small bulbs of tulip and narcissus. In bulbaceous material such as lilies, where detached scales from the bulb may readily form small bulbs at the base after planting, the following treatment has been very successful: Scales are detached and immediately immersed in a 0.2 percent solution for about 2 hours; then they are planted with the tips exposed. The length of time of treatment and concentration of the solution may have to be varied to obtain results with the different species of lilies and other bulbaceous material.

At this point it must be emphasized that desirable changes in many bulbaceous plants are not to be expected, since many are already polyploids and further doubling of the chromosomes may result in inferior plants. Also, it cannot be emphasized too strongly that colchicine treatment frequently has been unsuccessful, especially with woody plants and other material where penetration of the chemical into the growing regions presents difficulties; and furthermore, that the doubled-chromosome forms, if produced, are not always improvements over the normal types. Some changes often can be recognized only by careful observation, involving the use of a microscope or a high-magnifying hand lens. Some changes effected by colchicine may be so inconspicuous that they at times escape casual observation. In interpreting results from the use of colchicine it is not only necessary to know the growth habits and cultural requirements of the experimental plant but also to have expert knowledge of plant structure, some knowledge of the principles of genetics, experience in recognizing and evaluating induced changes, and training in the use of the microscope. A high-magnifying hand lens in some cases may make it possible to see a change in size and distribution of stomates of a normal leaf. Changes in superficial structures such as hairs and glands that are of epidermal origin may also be detected.

As can be seen from the above presentation, colchicine cannot be considered as a plant food, "growth elixir," or fertilizer. Its application to induce polyploidy is confined mostly to vegetative growing points, and only a very limited quantity of material is treated at a time. For a more extended discussion of artificially induced polyploidy and information on some of the results obtained, readers are referred to "Colchicine Polyploidy and Technique," Bot. Rev. 6:599-635, 1940, which is essentially a general review of the literature on the subject. This and related publications may be found in the libraries of most State agricultural colleges and experiment stations.

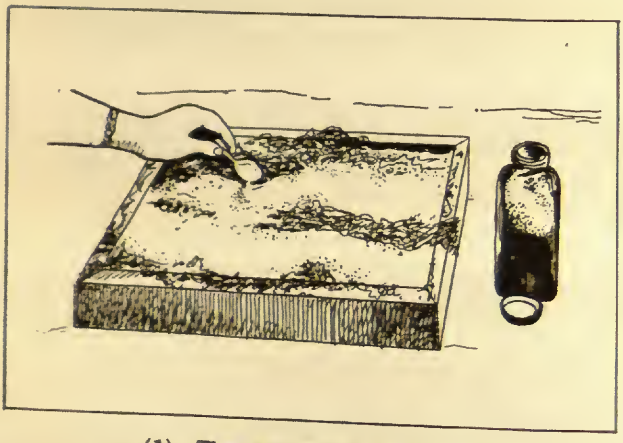
Soil Sterilization and Disinfection

Arthur Chard and Leslie George, Mass.

We often use the term "soil sterilization." Is this actually what we mean? Webster's definition of the word "sterilize" is: "to make sterile; to deprive of the power of reproduction." Is it not more likely that we really mean "soil disinfection?"

We must realize that there are many forms of bacteria that are vitally useful in their relation to soil fertility and plant growth. Some of them break down complex substances in the soil and in fertilizers to convert them into simpler forms which the plant roots can take up as food. There are others which have a power of taking free nitrogen from the air and "fixing" it so that plants can use it. These bacteria we do not wish to destroy. It is PARTIAL STERILIZATION of soil which is requisite to success.

One way to accomplish this is through the use of heat -- by baking the soil or by treating it with hot water or steam. Baking is the easiest procedure for those with few plants. The soil should be put in a metal container, placed in an oven and left the length of time required to bake a medium sized potato. On a much larger scale a similar result may be attained by covering a plot of soil with straw or brush and keeping a hot fire over it for an hour or so. There are on the market electrical devices for heat treating small quantities of soil.



(1) The soil should be loose, dry, pulverized, and free from trash. Spread out so as not to be more than five inches deep. Sprinkle one pound of formaldehyde dust on each bushel of soil.

Sterilization by steam is more adapted to use by large greenhouses. Steam is applied through a loose tile or perforated pipe buried in the soil. One may steam sterilize soil in small quantities in a pressure cooker.

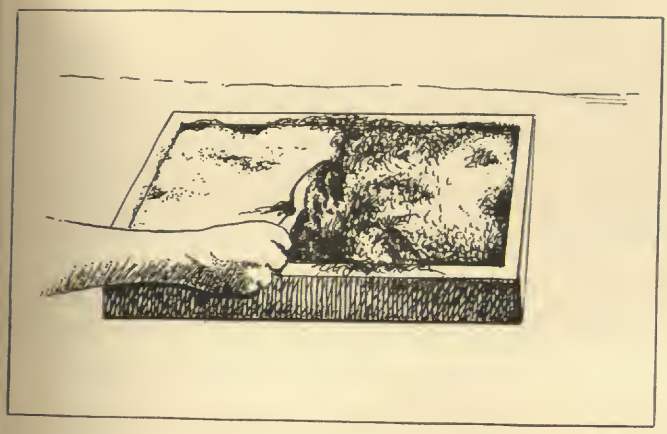
Boiling water may be applied to the soil surface to help control nematodes and fungi but it is not successful for sterilization to any appreciable depth.

Soil sterilization by chemical means is often more convenient than the above methods and various chemicals may be used for this purpose. Some of these are dangerously poisonous so that great care must be used in storing and handling them. Again, they are so extremely powerful that manufacturers' directions must be carefully followed.

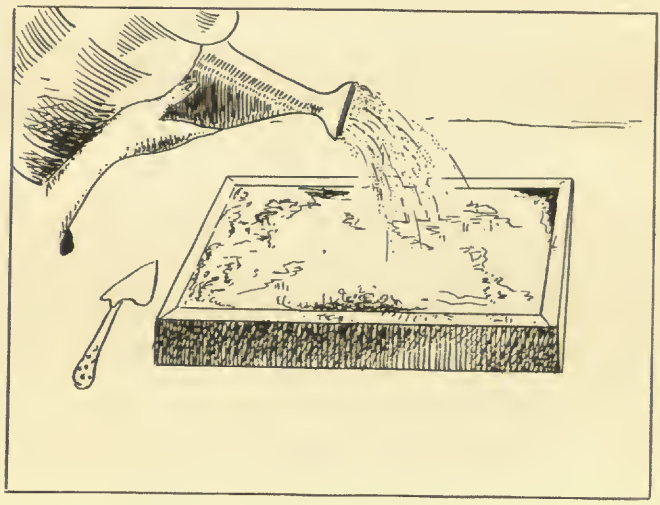
Sodium Selenate is one of the newer chemicals available. This was discussed by Professor Laurie of Ohio State University at our 1949 Cincinnati Convention. There were favorable comments by those who had already used it. It is used as follows: a solution is made of one ounce of Sodium Selenate to thirty gallons of water or approximately one gram to 3 gallons. Recommended dosage is one fluid ounce of this solution to a three inch pot or two fluid ounces to a four inch pot.

Our entomologists, plant pathologists, and chemists have recently developed what is claimed to be an outstanding soil fumigant -- Ethylene Dibromide in capsule form. Each capsule contains one-half of a cubic centimeter of Ethylene Dibromide -- one hundred percent. Properly used it is effective against nematodes and wireworms -- two most troublesome pests. Sixty-five to a hundred capsules will treat one-hundred square feet of garden area. Potting soil for indoor gardening may be treated in the same proportions. Soil is ready for use in ten days to two weeks after treatment. Do NOT use these capsules on growing plants.

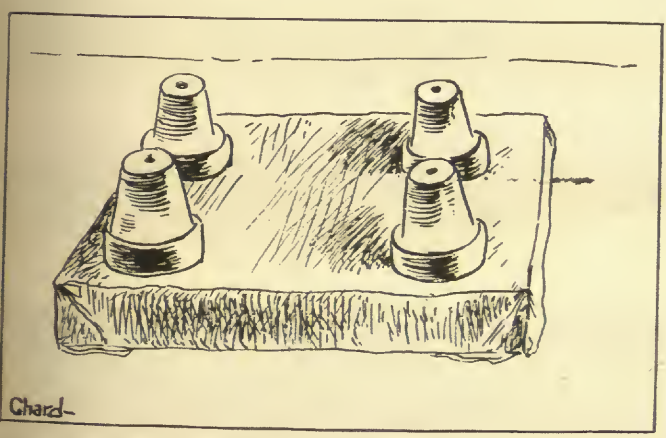
One easy and inexpensive method of soil sterilization is by using formaldehyde dust, pictured in the accompanying illustrations.



(2) Distribute the powder through the soil well by stirring or pouring several times from one container to another.



(3) Wet the surface thoroughly to dissolve the powder. This also has the effect of forming a seal to hold the fumes in the soil.



(4) The container should then be covered tightly and left covered for three days. Then remove cover and expose the soil to the air and sun. Do not use the soil until you are sure the action of the formaldehyde is completely finished. You can test this by smell. To play safe, the soil should be allowed to air until the last trace of fumes has disappeared.

A final word of warning -- treat all chemical disinfectants and sterilizers as the deadly poisons most of them are. And do not attempt to use them in any way other than that outlined by the manufacturer.

IS CALIFORNIA VIOLET CONSCIOUS?

Carolyn K. Rector, Cal.

This question came to me in a letter not long ago, and the answer to that is decidedly yes. Thanks to Clarissa Harris, and the string of Violet Societies she has organized in our part of the world, and the tireless activity of Mrs. Mackey, we have shoals of earnest inquisitors who want to learn how to grow this popular plant.

For some of us, this is not so simple as it might seem. For one thing, there is the climate, which varies a good deal in different locations. It has been said by a well-known garden writer that the climate and soil changes every three miles. Now in the part of town where I live, it is very hot and dry. On the other side of town near the ocean, it is always cool and damp. This naturally causes some serious problems to arise.

The fancier who grows a window full of violets along the sea front has to fight mildew and crown rot. In order to improve the circulation of air in the plant room, she has to turn on an electric fan at intervals and stir up the air in the house.

In our part of the city, the great problem is to provide sufficient humidity. As we have very little help from the weather, which is either hot and dry or cold and dry, depending on the time of year, we have to resort to various schemes. Many people try to humidify the room by putting a kettle of water on the heater or the radiator. In some cases this is sufficient, especially if the house is heated by steam. A good many of us depend for heat on little portable open-flame gas heaters. We have to think of a better way.

In my own case, I grew violets for several years with very little result, as far as blossoms were concerned. The plants grew large and looked healthy, but few buds ever appeared, and most of them shriveled and dropped off. Of course, I knew the air in my flat was very dry, but what I didn't know was that it made a difference to the violets.

After trying several ways to correct this condition, I finally tried one that really worked, and have since then been recommending it to others. It is very simple. In a metal window box of the right size and shape I put two inches of builder's sand, and keep it constantly moist. I had the metal-working shop make the first one, but it was quite expensive. So for the other windows I bought chick feeders of the proper length from the poultry supply store, took off the top part and threw it away, soldered the corners to make it water-tight, and painted the inside with two coats of asphalt paint. In this I put the wet sand, and set the plants on it (not in it) and it works fine, and does not cost too much. The evaporation from the wet sand goes up on the under side of the leaves where it will do the most good.

Another problem is soil. When my correspondents say in their letters, "All this fuss about soil mixtures is unnecessary - I just go out in the back yard and scrape up some soil from under the trees, and my violets grow all right," I try to be patient and remember that they do not live in California. Our soil is mostly alkaline, and has to be mixed with a number of things to make it palatable to acid-loving plants.

Then - there is water. The advice often given, to water them with rainwater, is very fine, if you can get the rainwater. We haven't had a drop of rain since March, and our total for last year was a fraction over nine inches. So where, I ask you, would we get rainwater? In most of the Southwest, the available water varies from slightly hard to very hard. Therefore, we have to water our plants occasionally with either Acidate, or a solution of vinegar and water.

We also have with us the insect population. I sometimes think there are more bugs in California than anywhere else in the United States. We have to fight aphis, thrip, scale, mealy bugs, and cyclamen mite. This means we have to sterilize all our potting soil.

It is a good thing that African violets like heat. Unless one has an air-conditioned house, it is too hot in the summer for houseplants. But, if we should set them out in the garden in the shade of a tree the snails and slugs and caterpillars would promptly eat them up. They seem to like the heat until it gets above ninety degrees. Above that the flowers fall off, though the plants do not seem to be harmed.

We do have plenty of sunlight. So much that some of us have to either shut out some of it with venetian blinds or put from one to three thicknesses of curtains on our windows to keep the violet leaves from getting cooked. Too much sun also causes the leaves to curl down over the pots.

But we do grow nice violets and plenty of them!

Practical Pointers

For Success in Growing

OF SAINTPAULIA IN THE HOME

Lina Eidt, Ohio

After five years of blundering and experimenting with considerable loss of time and money, I feel that I have at last attained a degree of success. The following points I should like to pass along to those who still may be groping for an answer to the problems which arise with growing conditions in the home.

1. Sterilize potting soil with a solution of Optox in warm water, double the strength of that recommended for spraying. I saturate the soil and use after two days.

2. Mix liberal amount of ground charcoal to soil. Larger pieces may be used for drainage.

3. Use discrimination in pulling plants apart, and when removing leaves. To help heal and to congeal the sap, I place a little flour over the spot from which the leaves or suckers are removed.

4. Water with warm rain water. This may be gathered in a barrel from downspout. I also use water which has been poured over egg-shells and let stand overnight. This is a source of calcium and gives the foliage a gloss. Never keep plant in water. The dish should be clean and there will be no springtails.

5. A real danger and the start of wilt and rot is permitting your ground to become powdery dry. If a plant needs moisture every day, I water every day depending on the size of the container.

6. Once a month loosen soil from edge of pot before watering and scrape it toward the center of your plant and make the crown firm. Then water, using Plant Marvel. At this time, I use a barber brush to remove dust from foliage.

7. For rooting leaves so they do not rot before plants are large enough to remove use a thick layer of ground charcoal, - dust and all, a layer of potting soil, and a top layer of vermiculite. I do not use drainage for these but use shallow dishes.

8. Plants purchased from greenhouses are usually pot bound in 2" pots and less to make them bloom. These I remove by using a sucker stick to keep as much ground as possible and place in a size larger pot. Over-potting is a sure cause of crown rot. Do it gradually. Too much crowding is bad but too much space is worse.

9. Do not over-fertilize plants. Good soil should take care of your plant. Why worry, if a plant is healthy and free from insect pests, whether it blooms this week or next? Good plant food is on the market and can be used in lieu of fertilizer and manure. Why crowd your plants? This may cause crown rot. Foliage is as pretty as blooms on many saintpaulias.

10. I have great success in pollination by opening the anthers with a needle, and the pollen that clings to the needle I place on the stigma of the flower to be pollinated, even if the flower has fallen.

Many articles have been written by expert growers, but I feel that I must share my experiences in the hope that I may save someone the worry I went through before arriving at the above solutions to problems arising each and every day.

AFRICAN VIOLETS
CARVED IN CRYSTAL LUCITE
Pins and ear rings, $1.75 each
Post paid, tax included, no C. O. D.s
State color, pink, white, light and dark blue
SUNNY SLOPE STUDIO
West Newberry, Mass.

Light as Air

VERMICULITE - is now made into pottery

African violet people who have long been familiar with Vermiculite as a growing medium will no doubt be pleasantly surprised to know that flower pots are now being made out of Vermiculite.

An attractive plant container is manufactured by a Georgia Company the Vermiculite Pottery, Inc. This firm is headed by Milton E. Posey, factory manager, and Herman J. Kuppers, merchandising manager, who designed and patented these new planters.

This line of pottery is both decorative and artistic as well as helpful in the growing of more beautiful houseplants. Being porous, free circulation of air is permitted to the roots, and excess moisture is absorbed . . . thereby preventing stagnation and souring of the soil. Vermiculite Pottery appears to be inlaid with flecks of gold due to the mica in its composition. It is made in 3 pastel colors blue, green, and rose.

METHOD OF LABELING AFRICAN VIOLET OR SIMILAR FLOWERS FOR BREEDING WORK, TIMING BLOOMS, ETC.

Evan Roberts, Mich.

The following paragraphs tell how to label a living flower on an African violet plant for study.

The stems of the African violet flowers are thin and while they hold up the individual flowers they cannot stand much weight. Hence, the ordinary tags with string attached do not work well because they are apt to weight the whole petiole down and may injure or break it.

Ordinary gummed labels are used for this purpose. Any gummed label that can be cut into 2" x 3/16" and which may be written on with a pencil will suffice. After the label is cut to size and has the desired writing on the side free from adhesive material, it is moistened and placed around the flower stem (pedicle) of each flower. To insure its staying in place if the plants are watered overhead, it is stapled to the pedicle. An "Ace" hand stapler (Model No. 702) designed with a metal opening for the hand is used to apply a staple to the label. The label is stapled close to the flower stem but not so close that it will injure the stem.

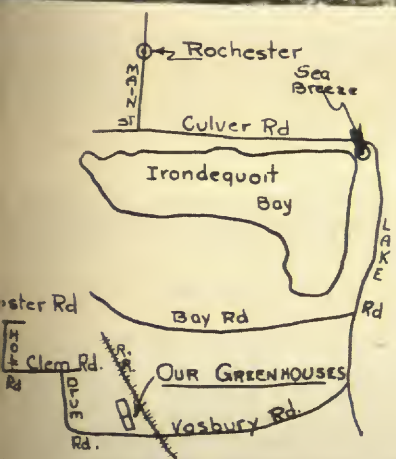
This type of label will last as long as desirable and serves its purpose very well.

PLAN TO VISIT OUR NEW

AFRICAN VIOLET DISPLAY HOUSE

THIS SUMMER

The picture will give you an idea of what you will see



We have thousands of blooming plants of what we consider to be the BETTER VARIETIES

Also a limited stock of several varieties of Episcias and Gloxinias. 3" and 4" squatty clay pots, as well as painted ones with saucers are available here

JOHN R. GENT

595 VOSBURG ROAD, WEBSTER, N. Y.

2 MILES BEYOND SEA BREEZE

SORRY WE DO NOT SHIP

TRULY EVER-SPORTING

FANTASY

Sheldon C. Reed, Minn.

In reply to Mr. Behnke:

The major work on eversporting in flowering plants is that of Demerec at Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y. He worked with Delphinium and found that the mutation from lavender to purple may occur at any time in the development of the plant from the seed to the last cell division in the flower. Your "Blues" from Fantasy are the ones in which the mutation from lavender to purple occurred in the seed—these plants are of no value as purple **seldom** mutates back to lavender. The tiny spot of purple in the lavender blossom means that the mutation from lavender to purple occurred just a few cell divisions back in the already formed bud.

Your single crown plant which is half pink and half Fantasy is probably due to a mutation from the eversporting lavender to pink which is not eversporting. Leaves from the pink half will give only pure pink and are therefore not valuable. Leaves from the Fantasy half will give mostly Fantasy with some useless completely purple, as is usually the case.

The effect of the Fantasy gene upon the reproductive organs is amazing. The one flower that has opened here has a stamen in place of the stigma, something I have never heard of before. I shall follow this peculiarity further.

Mrs. William K. du Pont passed away at Singapore on World Cruise

Mrs. Ethel du Pont, seventy-four widow of William K. du Pont, formerly of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., died of a heart attack at 11 a. m. March 3rd in the home of a stranger overlooking Singapore's botanical gardens. She lived in Wilmington, Delaware.

Mrs. du Pont, who left New York on January 6th on a world tour aboard the Cunard liner Caronia, was visiting the gardens when she collapsed. She was taken to the near-by home of Mrs. J. W. Ewart, where she died in the guest room that morning. She had been in good health during the cruise. When the Caronia docked Thursday, March 1st, Mrs. du Pont was among the first to go ashore.

Mrs. du Pont was accompanied on the 111-day world cruise by a relative, Mrs. Frank D. Crowninshield, of Montchanin, Delaware. Her husband was a brother of Pierre S., Irenee, and Lammot du Pont, all three of whom are past presidents of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, Inc. Their great grandfather founded the du Pont Company. Widely known for her interest in flowers and as the originator of the du Pont strain of saintpaulias, Mrs. du Pont also had been active in many Delaware community affairs. In 1920 she became the first Delaware woman member of the Republican National Committee.

Three children and several grand children survive.

"FRIENDSHIP GARDEN"

I have a little garden,
So very dear to me,
Because it's filled with friendship flowers
And means so much to me.
Each little plant I've planted
Represents a friend,
And I will guard it kindly,
So that friendship never ends.
The rain will be my laughter
The sun will be my love
And each little tender blossom
Will be like heaven above.
So grow, Oh! grow my garden
And may your roots grow deeper
So that every passing year will find
Our friendship has grown sweeter.

Agnes J. Bott

VIOLET BOWL

Mildred Broady, Nebr.

Monthly, eager thousands join their friends in a most fascinating pastime -- that of African violet culture.

I like to think of the African Violet Society of America as a "Vast Violet Bowl" in which a thrilling game is played.

The Rose Bowl, Cotton Bowl, Orange Bowl, Sugar Bowl, and many other Bowls in various states draw thousands of spectators to their major sports events and festivities that are held yearly.

The "Violet Bowl" differs in that everyone and anyone may participate in the game. It is a daily, not yearly, event and it is not restricted to any particular state.

The requirements are not rigid. A player need not be athletic. To the contrary, many handicapped persons at home and disabled veterans in hospitals all over the United States are finding comfort and endless pleasure in African violet culture. They are often directed and inspired by the members of local societies who share their knowledge and plants with them.

A player need not be agile. Invalids may join actively in this sport and share the thrills of the game by telephone, correspondence, and by visits from friends. The extent of their collections is often unbelievable!

A player need not be wealthy. The most budget minded person will feel no strain on the purse strings, as no ticket is required. Many enthusiasts have built outstanding collections almost entirely thru exchange and from their own efforts at growing them.

The game need not be played individually. A husband and wife team works wonderfully. Often the children, too, develop talents in African violet appreciation at a very early age, thru observation. This interest increases greatly with the first successful attempts at growing new plants.

The game may be played by larger teams. Large clubs with their many members and friendly little groups which organize locally to become part of the National Organization, may participate and gain much pleasure and knowledge thru these efforts.

The "Violet Bowl Game" is advertised far and wide. This is done enthusiastically and generously by means of the Homing Pigeons, Round Robins, and the Grapevine.

No book of rules is required but the African Violet Magazine is an excellent guide and Helen Van Pelt Wilson's revised edition of "The African Violet" is very reliable and most helpful.

Remarkable is the fact that everyone wins in this exhilarating game. The cheers and applause of the audience are expressed by "Oh!" and "Ah!" and "Lovely!" by those who view the "favorites" -- possibly a result of the player's own success from a tiny leaf or from seeds.

The playing field has apparently no limits. With keen interest in hybridizing and making one's own crosses, the sport is daily becoming more popular. Endless possibilities are seen in the field of African violet culture.

The gates are open - the "Violet Bowl" a vast expanse, and beyond - "new horizons."

An invitation to all! Join your friends at the game!

TWO PIECE PLANTERS

Control Watering of Your African violets.

No. 8 Oval 3x4x4 at $1.50
No. 9 Square 4x4x3 at $2.00
No. 10 Oval 3x4x3 at $1.00
No. 11 Square 4x4x4 at $2.50
No. 12 Rect. 3x5x3 at $2.50

Terra Cotta and Stone Grey

See Article and Pictures, Page 17, Sept. Issue This Magazine.

F. O. B.

TOPPING HILL CRAFT

Rush, N. Y.

QUESTION BOX

LAURETTA L. LITTIG 3016 Jefferson Ave. Davenport, Iowa

First, let's have a little chat before we start our questions. Several who have written me said they were hesitant about writing -- others asked that we do not publish their letters for fear their questions would sound "too stupid." Don't forget we were all beginners once and had to ask questions. So -- no matter what your violet trouble is, please feel free to write me.

And, you people who know all the answers, why don't you "do your good deed for the day?" Take a few minutes and send me your answers to the questions. A variety of answers makes it more interesting and will be appreciated.

I have had a number of inquiries for the names of patented violets. The September, 1950 issue of this magazine listed "African Violets With a Patent," but for the benefit of those who have joined since, I am listing them again:

White Lady, Blue Girl, Pink Beauty, Pink Girl, Lady Geneva, and Gorgeous.

QUESTIONS

What causes flowers to drop off right after watering?

Harry Gensemer, Ill.

I have several Blue Boy African violets. One had sixty blooms on it, and after it finished blooming, it died. The other one is about through blooming but didn't have that many blossoms. Now it looks like it is going to die, too, because it is wilting. What can I do to get it back to health?

Rose Mary Peeling, Maryland

I have read it is a good idea to pick off the little side shoots or suckers on plants. I picked off the suckers on my Pink Lady and it stopped it from blooming for several months. Also, the plant started to side shoot again, so I didn't gain anything. My plant is not a pretty shape now, as the center has a number of crowns. Please tell me the proper procedure -- to cut off the suckers or leave them alone?

Mrs. Frank E. Whiting, Mass.

Why do blossoms drop off on some plants before wilting, and not on others? Does it hurt a plant to separate it when in bloom? What makes the leaves I start in water rot?

Mrs. Otto Janch, Minn.

Would you please tell me whether you have complaints from other violet growers about their plants not blooming when their homes are heated with artificial gas? My plants bloom beautifully spring, summer and fall, but as soon as winter comes, not a bud forms. I've blamed it on the gas, but, of course, am not sure.

Mrs. Newton Stephens, Iowa

When using Sodium Selenate, should the plants be dry or moist?

In pollinating, how many seed pods is it advisable to allow to develop on plants -- both single and double crowns?

If seed pods mature, does the plant die or just take a rest after the effort of producing seed?

Col. C. K. Darling, Wyo.

I have a nice healthy blooming Redhead. There are leaves growing on the leaf stems between the base of the stem and the leaf. Also on several stems that were broken off, leaves are sprouting where the break occurred. I have raised sixty plants from leaves but never had anything like this before. Is this something unusual?

Katherine Lavell, Wisc.

I am having trouble with my Ionantha. The outer leaves tend to curl under. The center stalk is quite long, with leaves at the top, and an inch of stalk is quite bare with new leaves starting. The stalk is top heavy and slants to one side. Although the plant is still blooming, I think something is wrong. I repotted it about six months ago and until a month ago, it was doing nicely. Can you tell me what to do?

Mrs. Howard W. Snyder, N. Y.

ANSWERS

Mouse Trouble

To Mrs. F. E. Peterson, Mont.

From my own experience, I would say a little mouse is the guilty culprit who ate your violets. Here is what happened to me. One morning when I went into the greenhouse, I found some of my plants in a mess. Every plant in bloom on the benches had the yellow anthers off and pollen lying all over the leaves. I was sure insects could not do that much damage. The plants on the shelves had not been touched. We found a hole where the water pipe came in and set a trap, after we plugged up the hole. However, we didn't catch the mouse, as he had probably gone out and couldn't get back in. I had mice several years ago in the greenhouse, and know they can do a lot of damage.

Helen Pochurek, Ohio

Show Specimen Plant

To D. Ryan, Iowa

A show specimen plant is single crown, symmetrical, with good firm, clear foliage, and a good shade of green. It must be free of disease and insects, and have a goodly number of good-sized blooms.

Myrtle Radtke, Ohio

Turning Plants

To Mrs. E. Fischer

In order to have a nice symmetrical plant, it is necessary to turn your plants every few days.

From my experience, it seems to be the nature of some plants to have more rest periods than others. My Amazons and du-Ponts rest after they bloom awhile, then start in again. Some of my other plants, such as Redhead, Viking, Bi-color, Blue Boy, and many others seem never to stop blooming but have spells of slacking up some, then having bursts of blooms.

Mrs. H. A. Hunt, Iowa

Propagation Results

To Mrs. Ann Stutko, Mo.

I would say it is possible to get a pink violet when propagating a leaf from a purple violet plant, although I personally haven't had this experience. However, I have heard of this happening.

Mrs. J. Bolton, Colo.

Wobbly Plant

To Mrs. James Easson, Kans.

I know what you mean by a wobbly plant, as I too had one. Had it for almost a year. It was healthy looking but didn't grow much, didn't bloom and wobbled every time I touched it. I finally took it up and found there were hardly any roots, although they were healthy looking. I took all the soil off and touched the tip of the roots with "Rootone" and repotted it in fresh soil. I put the plant a little further down in the soil. In a few months it was firm in the soil and in bud. It is now twice as large and covered with blossoms.

Since I've used "Rootone" on the little plants that come from a leaf, I've had no more wobbly plants, as I find the "Rootone" promotes root growth. Be careful, though, not to use too much. I just barely touch the bottom of the roots.

Martha Mason, Conn.

Sucker Plants

To Mrs. Clara Van Kranken, N. Y.

It is best to take the little sucker leaves or plants off while small, in order to have a nice looking plant. However, if you have allowed them to grow, pick them off close to the main stem. These can be rooted in water and you can get nice plants. Pulling off the suckers should not affect the blooming. In fact, it should increase the blooms, as these suckers take the strength from the plant. At least, this has been my experience. When picking off the sucker, be sure to get it all clear to the main stem. Otherwise, another sucker will grow.

Mrs. E. J. Hanson, Calif.

As you know, violets behave in different ways. I had an Orchid Beauty which produced a few flowers on one stem, and then nothing but suckers for two years. Other plants all around were full of blossoms. I kept removing suckers, some when quite tiny and others about as large as blooming size plants. There was never a sign of a bud. I rooted six of the suckers, and four began producing suckers immediately. The other two had a few blossoms, then started producing suckers. So I discarded the whole lot.

Last year, I repotted a Bluebird in a too large pot, and it stopped blooming and produced suckers. Later, I started to remove them but discovered each had a bloom stalk coming, so left them on. The plant is now huge, with blossoms on all sides and all the suckers are blooming. Since then I don't waste time on plants that produce suckers and no blooms.

Mrs. Leonard Boyer, Mo.

GESNERIACEAE ARE INTERESTING

Cont. from page 11

herbs. They are commonly seen. They are divided into the Longiflora group having pear shaped tubers or rhizomes and the Grandiflora with long tubers which grow at the ends of root-like threads. Many times, these extend to the very bottom of the drainage material in the pot. Grandiflora have solitary tubers in clusters. In this group, more than one flower appears from a leaf axil.

It is doubtful if any pure species appear in cultivation. Due to much hybridization, the original red (Coccinea) types have given way to purple and lavender, the latter two predominate.

The rhizomes resemble tiny pine cones, and each little scale of the cone, watered sparingly will grow into an individual plant. Tubers form readily on leaves or stems, also flower stems in water or soil in a sunny window. A leaf may be cut at the veins and midrib with a razor blade, pinned to the soil and form tubers, or placed in water they will do the same. If the plant is allowed to become fairly dry, tubers will form in the leaf axils. One of my Achimenes forms tubers anywhere along the stem of the growing plant.

They are started in shallow boxes or pots, under about ½ inch of soil with scant watering (warm) till growth appears—Oh, yes, and bottom heat. Even growths are repotted that all may bloom at the same time. The plants are lovely in hanging baskets, flowers in such beautiful shades of pale blue, dark blue, lavenders, purple, dark rose, light pink, carmen, wine red, bright red, white, all with varied throats of yellow dotted and veined.

They like plenty of water and shade, may be forced at any time, usually are dormant during the winter.

Naegelias, may be propagated the same as Achimenes, and the Tydaeas, Isoloma, Kohleria, too, with the exception of the leaves of the latter three, which have formed roots only for me.

Isoloma tydaea means equal border. The foliages of these, Kohleria, Campanea, are much the same, a light soft green, all have the scaly rhizomes, only much larger than those of Achimenes, the Kohleria rhizomes being much the largest, with scales more sparsely set on the cone. The rhizomes, however, vary in size according to the top growth; if tall and vigorous, the increase will be generous and large under the soil.

Isoloma hirsutum has the most attractive foliage, soft to the touch, the toothed brown edges of the leaves matching the hairy furry stems and buds of the flowers; the buds are like little brown puffs. Flowers are bright red, nodding, with yellow throat dotted red, carried well and on long stems, three to four stems to a leaf axil. Some years ago I bought seed of Isoloma; these flowers were lime green with purple dots. They propagated readily from slips, but at no time did they form tubers.

Kohleria makes a coarser growth, not very showy. The flowers are wee, red, tubular, not very attractive.

Diastema pictum from seed has been so interesting and satisfactory but with one little fault—too much foliage. Very light green and stems lightly pink, the plant has an odor of rose geranium when handled. The flowers are small, white, much the shape of slipper gloxinia, with a tiny lavender dot at the tip of each petal.

Achimenes, like rhizomes, form generously and each one sprouts into a new plantlet at once. My experience is that they grow continuously with no rest period. It is a native of Colombia, South America.

Columnea gloriosa from the Merrys has been easy, though mine has not bloomed yet. One plant is in the medium in which it came, one in peat, one in ordinary soil, with slips rooted in the latter two successfully. They have the morning sun and seem to like it.

My corytholoma, meaning helmet shape, from seed, must be six or seven years old and has not bloomed, though I have seen a wee red pressed flower. It grows vigorously during the summer and promptly goes dormant in the late fall. Foliage is gray-green and resembles mint. Tubers are white and rounded, and flattened. Stem cuttings are easy, forming a tuber at each leaf joint in soil or water.

Episcias are choice trailing greenhouse plants. Some of the various foliages are metallic, that of Episcia fulgida is headed with emerald-green distinct veinings.

Episcia cupreata, is more hairy, having a coppery luster. Flowers are auxiliary, short tubed and toothed, freshly opened ones having a frosty appearance. All are easily propagated from stalaus or "strawberry" runners. One plant in direct morning sun has the richest coloring.

Many years ago, I had so many Gesneria cordindis from seed I put them in the vegetable garden. Nice orange tubers formed but as they went dormant, the tubers rotted, and now I believe it was due to the fall rains. I have a plant again and it is a favorite with very light green soft fuzzy foliage, bright red lipped flowers of unusual shape. This plant roots nicely from a basal shoot.

Haberlea and Ramondia are hardy here in Minnesota, but they do need moisture. As we had a dry summer and fall, mine probably will not do so well. Haberlea has smooth, glossy, stiff, toothed foliage and insignificant pale lavender flowers. Ramondia forms a crinkly leaved rosette somewhat the texture of a strawberry leaf, clothed in brown hairs.

Trichosporum pulchrum was not so easy, but at least mine blossomed with red un-

usual widely gaping flowers that almost startles one—as if they would bite! These plants like a warm house and slips require bottom heat to root successfully. Less water is required during the winter.

The name Trichosporum (Aeschynanthus) means seed with one or more long hairs at the end and so they are, with very fine silky hairs. Widely scattered they are found in India, Malaya, Ceylon, East Tropical Asia, and in our Tropical Americas.

Streptocarpus from the Greek word meaning twisted seed pod, very much resembles a twisted rope, and the two or three inch seed pods hold well over a thousand seeds.

The leaves resemble the polyanthus primrose and being from the Cape of South Africa, are commonly called Cape Primrose. Flowers of the hybrid types are various sizes, many of them ruffled and in the loveliest colors of blue, even navy blue, mauve, lilac, white, cream, pink, rose with throats of plain yellow, cream or varied pencilled markings of browns, deeper blues. They are carried well above the foliage, two and three to the stem, the stems growing at the base of the midrib of the leaf.

Interesting as a collector's item are those with one huge crinkly leaf. The flower stems grow directly from the midrib. Those of Streptocarpus Wendlandii are small, pale lilac and insignificant.

An old plant may be cut through with a sharp knife—cut parts dusted with sulphur and each division planted in a little mound of sand in any rich soil, watering sparingly until the plant gets adjusted. Streptocarpus enjoys warm water on the leaves. Remember, this plant has no bulbs, so keep two or three extra divisions yourself, if you have a favorite, so you won't lose it. Principal pests are thrips.

This December, Drymania has put forth foliage only after a lengthy rest period. It is a woody climber and roots easily from slips.

Achimenes tubiflora has large white potato-like tubers. Underground runners form new potatoes and it also roots readily from slips. The leaves are narrow, crinkly and have a peculiar weed odor but the long, white tubular flowers make up for this in being very sweet scented.

My plants have ordinary furnace heat in the winter and no artificial light. I believe in a greenhouse, they would grow more luxuriantly, but they are well worth growing even in the home.

Sometime in the future I would like to tell you more about Lampanea and some others that have not bloomed yet.

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PIGEON EDITOR

Greetings from your new Pigeon Hint Editor. I hope that I can do the same good job that Violet Berry has done. It takes a number of good hints to fill my column. I hope that you will help me by sending those good ideas along in your Pigeons. They may be old to you, but new to someone else. Only in this way, can we all benefit from this column. I am sure that you will all cooperate. Thanks a million.

Sincerely,

Helen Pochurek

Rose Jenkins, Unit 55—When taking plants to a show - the problem arises - how to pack them without danger of leaves being broken. Take a flat board or shallow box. On this - space some coffee cans, according to the size of your plants. Allow plenty of room for leaves to spread without crowding. Nail cans down securely. Place plants in cans with nary a worry about leaves breaking.

Eleanor May, Unit 63—Take a good strong leaf with a long stem. Cut tiny notches about ½ inch apart on underside

HELEN POCHUREK

14225 McCracken Rd.,

Cleveland, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

of stem. Bury entire stem in ½ inch of sand or growing medium, allowing leaf to extend out beyond rim of pot. A new plant will come from each notch.

I also like to use sifted spaghnum moss for part of a mixture for starting seeds. I use equal proportions of peat, vermiculite, sand and spaghnum. Use this for the bottom of container and the straight spaghnum for the top layer making it about ½ inch thick. Plants will not damp off as they might in other mediums.

Ferne Kellar, Unit 90—To sterilize soil - 3 tablespoons of formaldehyde to a pint of water. This is sufficient to treat a bushel of soil. Put a layer of soil in container and sprinkle mixture over soil (a gadget such as is used for sprinkling clothes works fine on top of a bottle) add another layer of soil, continue until entire solution is used. Cover entirely with a heavy canvas or blanket for first days. Air for a week before using.

Marion Baker, Unit 57—A birdbath filled with ferns, wandering jew, philodendron and violets makes a lovely garden during the winter. Add a few good sized stones and moss to hold the moisture. Cover soil with a thin layer of spaghnum moss. This makes a nice addition to your picture window.

Mrs. Roy Guilfoyle, Unit 44—Sherbert glasses of different heights enable one to put pots of varying sizes in them, thus allowing leaves to spread out. Foliage will rest on edge of glass.

Mrs. R. B. Pearsall, Unit 75—Make a round apron of plastic to fit like a collar around crown of plant. It can be held securely around top of plants and pot, thus avoiding getting soil on plant when dipping in a spray solution.

Your Editor is a firm believer in spaghnum moss for violets. I like to use several pieces of broken pot in bottom of pot, arranged in such a way that water and air will circulate freely. Then - I add a layer of moss and then soil. I find plants grow much faster - the roots seem to work their way down into the moss in short order. I believe that violets also like to breathe and do much better for that reason.

Mr. H. G. Harvey, Unit 6—Start leaves in plain water - after 2 weeks change the water and add ¼ teaspoon of Hyponex to a quart of water. Two weeks later, change water again - this time using 1 teaspoon Hyponex to a quart of water. Leaves will root faster by this method.

FROM THE EDITOR'S MAIL

We use a cement mixer to mix our soil and it does a fine job.

Martha Mears

When the parent leaf dies before it should, very small plants may sometimes be saved if a small drinking glass is inverted over them. The extra warmth and humidity the glass provides is most beneficial.

Fay Wilcox

Be sure soil is not too heavy (loose, so it will drain well). Plants will grow in any window in the house, provided it is warm, some protection given from sun, and you don't over water them. I always water with warm water. Water will not spot the leaf unless it is cold water.

Violets like cleanliness. Give them a good, warm bath some night.

Feed them a little, but after they set bud.

Water a violet well, and then don't water again for two or three days.

Mildred Wilson

Try planting your African violets in paper pots set inside of a pretty glazed one. One member reports good success that way. You don't have to water your violets often, and yet you must not have the soil soggy.

Kay Duerstling

My plants were losing their lower leaves. At first I tried the aluminum foil, but it didn't seem to hold very well. I liked the idea of the paraffin, but could hardly see my way clear to repot all my plants which I would have to do if I dipped them in melted paraffin solution. My brother-in-law suggested that I melt the paraffin then take a small paint brush and apply it to the rims of the pots.

Annabel Hilliard

A good soil mixture may be made of equal parts of leaf mold and garden loam mixed with a little sand. This should provide the light earth in which saintpaulias will flourish. Then to each 4 inch pot full of soil, add a teaspoon of bone meal or 5-10-5 fertilizer as a good preliminary feeding.

Dalene Rhodes

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Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

If you wish to join a group, or if you wish to withdraw from one, please communicate with Mrs. Canner.

While iron from rusty nails buried in the pot could not harm plants, it is probably not helping, as the iron oxide isn't soluble or readily available as it would be in a complete commercial plant food.

Boyce Edens

Leaves may root any time, but make fastest growth and come into bloom sooner if rooted during growing months of March, April and May. Use rain water for rooting leaves.

Solange Slivka

Ammonium Sulphate and Nitrate of Soda are good sources of readily available nitrogen. Nitrogen is one of the greatest helps in boosting growth of plants.

Helen Farnham

Peat moss may be either acid or alkaline and should be tested before using.

Pauline Wyland

Try using aluminum foil in 1½ inch strips doubled, around the top of your African violet plants to prevent over-lapping leaves from becoming damp. It is moisture proof and really does the trick.

Bertha Richter

When placing leaves in the rooting medium, I cut a small strip of adhesive tape and write the name on it, then stick it across the leaf. It is a simple way to identify the different varieties.

Mrs. W. E. Ray

One half alcohol and one half water spray will kill mealy bugs and dries from the plant quickly.

One cup flowers of sulphur added to one bushel of soil will kill worms.

Louise Smouse

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LET'S VISIT

Cont. from page 25

ing the name and put aside to "heal" while the jars are being prepared. Leaves are inserted in the mixture with the stems next to the glass and visible from the outside. They are supported by wooden plant markers. (Placing the leaves in this fashion makes it possible to notice any stem that has started to rot and take necessary action immediately. It also affords a view of the development of roots and plantlets long before they appear above the surface.) The battery jars are then placed under the benches near the small windows. Perfect, isn't it?

From the above, one would imagine that we entered on hands and knees, which was not the case. This did make a lasting impression with us, though, and is naturally one of the first things we recall.

The greenhouse is about 8 feet by 12 feet and contains, in addition to the usual benches, three rows of shelves containing about 70 large and beautiful plants. (We had to take Maxine's word for this count, for we usually get mixed up at about 24, because we see something special about three plants down that must be commented upon or seen more closely.) About 1000 plants are in the benches, ranging from small "clumps" just removed from the battery jars, to plants of blooming size. It is truly a beautiful sight.

Clumps from the terrariums are potted into 2 and one-quarter inch pots when the plants reach a height of about one inch. When they reach two inches the parent leaf is removed and returned to the jar for re-rooting, and (another wrinkle) the cut end remaining with the clump is dusted with sulphur to prevent, or lessen, the danger of rot. When the plants are considered large enough for division, they are potted separately into 2 and one-quarter inch pots and later transferred into the three inch size.

"The violet bug is biting my husband, too," Maxine said. (We prefer to say that he is being "educated".) As the greenhouse is about 30 feet from the house, it was considered impracticable to pipe hot and cold water that distance, so the filling of the oil tank and the carrying of warm water became the gentlemanly task of Mr. Wangberg. This entering and re-entering of the greenhouse eventually impressed upon him the beauty of a plant or two at a time, until he has become quite familiar with many varieties. In time, a desire was developed for more and more knowledge. The Wangbergs are indeed fortunate, for the happiest families are those which share a mutual hobby.

It is with reluctance that we take our leave, and, at the crossroads, we wonder where we will find another collection to visit that will compare with what we have just seen.

"The Visitors"

MRS. CONIBER'S COLLECTION

Cont. from page 31

you will find over a thousand plants, and many more leaves in the process of being rooted.

Colors range from shades of deep purple to a light gray blue, from pink to deep ruby, as well as white. Blooms are single, double, small as a dime, or as large as a silver dollar. The foliage varies greatly too, for some plants have thick, sturdy leaves, and other varieties have shiny leaves, hairy leaves or scalloped ones. Some plants have naturally long, reaching leaf stems, and others form small, compact plants, each peculiar to the variety or type.

Names, too, are interesting, Blue Boy, Red Head, Gray Lady, Heavenly Blue, Double Duchess, Blue Eyes, Pink Lady, etc.

No house plant has increased in popularity so fast in recent years. Its colors are lovely, its foliage clean, and decorative; and it will grow well, and bloom almost endlessly under conditions in the average home.

The first National African violet show was held in 1947, and since that time, the information and records show over 225 named varieties, and this is increasing constantly.

One of the nicest plants in Mrs. Coniber's collection is Fantasy. This new variety is a light lavender pink blossom, rayed, splashed, or dotted with deep purple, and seldom are two blooms alike. The "Fringette" is another new and different variety, of delight to all growers.

On a trip to Florida in 1949, Mrs. Coniber visited several large growers, bringing home as her souvenirs, new varieties of African violets purchased of growers in Georgia and Ohio. Trips to nearby Pennsylvania growers, and those in New York state have yielded still more varieties such as the newest doubles and some of the Gypsy strains.

The African Violet Magazine makes it easier to keep in touch with other African violet hobbyists, to know sources of supply, as well as furnishing news of the latest finds.

One that particularly interests this writer, is the "Old Lace" variety. This miniature plant with scalloped leaves, compact growth of foliage, but with towering flowers high above the flat small leaves, is truly delightful. Its slow growth only makes the anticipation of its bloom last longer, and gives one a feeling of real achievement.

Mrs. Coniber finds her hobby has given her many new friends and acquaintances while attending the 1949 and 1950 exhibits of the African Violet Society in Rochester, and at hobby clubs. She has also spoken at garden clubs, and visitors to her home come from many states.

Yes, there is even fan mail. The hobbyists have Pigeon and Round Robin letters, and correspondents live in Alaska, Vermont, North Dakota, Michigan, Ohio, Georgia, Florida, California, and New York State.

Truly, those who are interested in this plant will be thrilled when they visit the Coniber home. I have never been there without finding hundreds of plants in bloom, in every size, shape, and color.

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JUST MY OPINION

OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Martha Seefeldt, Ill.

In my opinion, too many people think the African violet is a "touch-me-not." They seem to be almost mortally afraid of it and when they get near a plant they step sideways for fear of touching it.

Our plants are tough! Maybe they have to be, who knows. But they all look most happy. We have them at the east windows, the north windows, the south and west windows; even at the west door. We have them in the pantry, the kitchen, living, and dining room. We have them on the dining room table, on the sewing machine, and a lovely big Purple Prince on top of an old fashioned coffee grinder, the kind one used to see in all the old country grocery stores. It is painted a Chinese red with black.

We have two shelves full at the double north kitchen windows and they love it, bacon grease, sauerkraut and all. They have been blooming for months and still more buds are coming. The foliage on all the plants is a lush and healthy green. Orchid Beauty, Double Blue Boy. Frieda, Cleveland Amethyst, Blue Butterfly, Pink Beauty, White Lady, Neptune, Blue Boy, Blue Bird, Blue duPont, No. 32, Red duPont, Royalty, Old Lace, Viking, Purple Prince, Ice Blue, Mentor Boy, Lady Geneva, and a Dominican Minute Begonia, are on these shelves and they show such a variety of coloring.

The dining room boasts Ruffles. Viking, Double Margaret, Double Mary Wac, Double Neptune, Red Head, Red Head Girl, Blue Girl, Purple Prince, Blue Eyes, Waterlily, White Lady, Pink Beauty, Double Blue Boy (a very good bloomer), Rose Purple, Amarantha, Red Girl Hybrid, Blue Girl Hybrid, Pink Amazon, Von Detrich, Commodore, Dainty Maid, Blue Compacta, Low Cluster Blue, Norseman, Blue Butterfly, Jessie, Purple Beauty, Lavender Pink Amethyst, Red King, Sailor Boy, Sunset Pink, Orchid Girl, Sapphire Blue, Wild Rose, Episcia cupreata, several begonias, and a big Fischer's Ricenifolia Begonia as a center piece on the dining room table (no need to say we eat in the kitchen). The exposure here is north and west.

In the living room we have Ionantha, Orchid Two-tone, a large Viking, White Lady, Large Blue Boy from 1946, Red Amazon, Purple Beauty, a Calla Begonia, table ferns, Pic-a-Back plant, Geynuca, Tubiflora, Episcia veridifolia, Americana Northiana, Yellow edged Sanseveria, variegated Philodendron in a bird cage (try this idea, it is quite pretty). A Crown of Thorns is also among these plants. The exposure here is south and west.

In the pantry, with a north and west exposure, we have our baby plants, some in their seed bed and others in small pots. Also in there, we have a Blue Bird, Ruffles, Blue Girl, a young Episcia cupreata, and some Begonias.

Then we have pots and pots of African violets in all stages of growth on an east porch. Here, too, we have several dozen small pots with Gesneria plantlets which have grown from seeds; also some small Begonia plantlets which were too small for the lath-house.

We keep our plants a little on the dry side, the top soil being quite dry to the touch. The larger pots of violets each have their own dish or saucer and we try to water each plant daily. Only about an inch of water is poured into each saucer daily but they surely do bloom for us. About once every two weeks, we water them with vitamin B-1. Two tablespoons of this mixture is put in a watering can to each quart of water.

About once a month all plants get a drink of cow manure tea. In summer we use the water as it comes from the cistern. In winter we keep a bucket of rain water on each floor register. The evaporation keeps the rooms full of moisture, and we use the water as it warms on the registers to water the plants. Neither of us has had a cold for the past three winters, due, no doubt, in part to the moist air through the house.

Our potting soil is equal parts of garden soil, sand, dry cow manure (broken up in chunks), a cup of powdered charcoal, and the same of bone meal. We never bake or sterilize the soil and have very good success with our plants.

We have had a few African violet plants that looked a little tired and unhappy. These I removed from the pot, scraped all roots from the main stem, removed a few bottom leaves and put in a glass or dish of pure rain water. After three or four weeks a lovely, healthy root formation grew and I repotted in the potting soil, set them in a pan of water, and allowed the soil to become wet through but not soggy. We gave Double Blue Boy a new lease on life that way and potted it up a few days ago and it is covered with blossoms now. It was full of buds while in the water.

For a rooting medium we use soil made damp and kept covered until plants with four tiny leaves have formed on the parent

plant. Then the pots are soaked through and not watered again until the soil has thoroughly dried out. Some leaves propagate much faster than do some others.

We do not force our plants to bloom or grow plantlets with any commercial food or forcer. We, as farmers, believe in letting nature take her course. Nor do we move them from one place to another. They have to sit where they are set and like it.

The windows are kept open about four or five inches to the south and west all day. The north and east windows are opened wide. The awnings protect the plants from the direct sun. At night the windows are opened wide and you can see small dew drops on the plant leaves in the morning. We have hot days but nearly every night we have a heavy dew, which the plants seem to like.

Although we do not neglect our plants we do not baby them either; and we enjoy loads of African violet blooms all year long.

I hope soon to put a shelf up against a solid west wall of the lath house and will place a board over it for a roof. I will try to grow some plants in that exposure. We sprinkle the Begonias twice a day, which keeps the humidity quite high, and this should be an asset to the violets.

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Cyclamen Mite

Phyllis Ferrall, Mich.

Do be watchful for symptoms of mites! If the crowns of your plants show curly leaves when they shouldn't be curly, or if the petioles are twisted and stunted, and the bloom stalks don't care to grow up out of the crown properly — beware! It will save you a heartbreaking experience.

I will never get another new plant if it isn't possible for me to isolate it until all possible danger of infection is over. Once I lost over 40 of my very special varieties . . . with mites.

Mrs. Peck from Union City, Michigan very generously helped me treat my remaining plants. I used 100% D.D.T. in a liquid form. It was purchased from the Watkins dealer and used according to the manufacturer's directions on the bottle. First remove all distorted leaves and crowns before spraying plants. Repeat in 7 days.

If you suspect your plants do not look as they usually do, don't wait too long before treating them.

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ADVICE IN VERSE

LeBerta Morgan, Tenn.

One of the cleverest things to come to our attention is an innovation on the part of Agnes J. Bott of Bath, Pa.

Mrs. Bott, like many violet enthusiasts, derives great pleasure in sharing her plants with friends from time to time, or in taking one to a sick friend or one who has had a bereavement. What could bring more cheer to one who is ill or bereaved than a blooming saintpaulia? However we are all familiar with the question put to the donor—"How shall I take care of it?"

Mrs. Bott solved this question in this manner: She took two pieces of purple and one of cream-colored kindergarten paper which she cut out in the shape of a violet blossom. The purple cut-outs were colored yellow in the center with crayon, and served as front and back covers to the cream-colored sheet. Two holes were punched on the left side and tied with purple ribbon. The center, or cream-colored sheet, contained directions for caring for the plant. Mrs. Botts' cut-out violet measured 11½ inches long and 9 inches wide, with the following typed directions inside:

Directions For An African Violet

You can have fun and watch me grow,
I'm started from a leaf, you know.
I like the light, but not too much sun,
Or my leaves will turn yellow,
And soon I'll be done.

You can water me either from top or below,
I think about every third day or so.
I really prefer my drink from below,
As it helps prevent crown-rot and root-rot
You know.

I don't like a cold bath,
Just luke-warm will do,
And I'll bet this also holds true
For you.

When I've had enough water
I'll be moist on the top,
Take me out of my bath,
Or I'll be a flop.

Another reminder, for me, if you please,
Wash my leaves with warm water,
So that I can breathe.
Then, as each of my little flowers drop
Pinch off the pistillate right at the top.

If you follow these rules
I'm sure you will know
At least, the earthly things
That make me grow!

WARNING

Sometimes mealy bugs gather
In no time at all,
Take a toothpick and dip it
In some alcohol.

Touch each little white spot
Wherever they be
And kill these small insects
Before they kill me.

Many growers of saintpaulia will realize what a clever set of directions Mrs. Bott uses, and doubtless many of our "pen women" members will get to work along poetical lines. Typed directions, of course, take a great deal of space, but for those who can print well, the size of the cut-out violet could be reduced, which would facilitate handling by the recipient.

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VIOLETS THRIVE

IN

VERMICULITE PLANTERS

Violet Grower Says:

Some months ago Mr. James Jackson, Editor of the Garden Page of the Kansas City Star gave me one of your six inch Vermiculite pots and asked me to try it out and see how I liked it. To be frank I didn't feel I would care for it because it had no drainage, but strange as it may seem I find the African Violet grown in it is beautiful. The flowers seem larger but the most amazing feature is that the leaves lying on the rim of the pot do not deteriorate in the least. For an African Violet grower that point is most important.

Mrs. George F. Pendleton
403 West 68th Street
Kansas City 5, Mo.

Begonia Grower Says:

As I told you I planted Tuberous Begonias and Gloxinias in all the Vermiculite pots I purchased from you. These plants are very fussy about water. They must never be dry or water soaked.
I raised the most beautiful flowers I ever had. One Begonia—very short and stocky with big dark green leaves—bore three enormous blossoms at one time.
I have a colored film being developed of this plant. I yet have several Gloxinias to bloom and I shall photograph them later.

Mrs. A. G. Nye,
14 Colony Road
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VERMICULITE POTTERY

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ATLANTA GEORGIA

VIOLETS IN TIERS

Cont. from page 22

(which were to lengthy anyway) for making a picket fence.

From these, after putting on three coats of white paint to cover up the original green stain, I sawed the pickets which are one inch wide by four and one-half inches long. These are tacked at the lower edge with thumb tacks to a horizontal lath, which, in turn is fastened to the table edge with very small nails. The thumb tacks also serve as decoration. The tops of the pickets are held stationary by kite strings which are twisted together between the pickets, and drawn taut. Believe it or not, it took just 21 dozen thumb tacks, minus two, which is 250 pickets to make the fence.

The sizes of the tables are: bottom one, 5 feet by 24 inches; middle one, 4½ feet by 20 inches; and top one, 4 feet by 16 inches. The legs are all 15 inches long. I can put five rows of 3 inch pots in the lower table, 4 rows in the middle one, and 3 in the top one, with room to spare, if the plants are no larger than year old plants.

Perhaps you, like others, wonder how I can get at 125 plants to water them all. The pans below simplify that. I merely choose an evening for watering, use a two quart toy sprinkling can and give them a sprinkling of warm (room temperature) rainwater from above, for, after all, aren't they watered from the clouds in their natural habitat? By morning the plants are dried off, there is plenty of humidity from the small amount of water in the pans, and the sun doesn't hurt them one bit, to say nothing about the bright, clean leaves they have. With a thermometer and humidity indicator (all in one) hanging on the fence of the top table I am able to judge how often to water. When the furnace is going, I can keep the humidity up to only 45° to 55°, but through the summer, the humidity was around 70° most of the time, so I knew I shouldn't water so often or so much as before.

Just to see the many blooms on these plants is testimony as to how happy my violets are in their tier-tables. They were all young plants when the tables were ready for them last April. The only time there is cause for t-e-a-r-s is when a leaf gets caught on a picket and breaks off, which doesn't happen very often.

GROWING SHOW PLANTS

Cont. from page 28

Be careful to always keep all suckers off of plants. I use the point of a lead pencil or a small pointed object for pushing them off. The earlier you remove them the better it is for your plant. Judges always disqualify multiple crown plants or plants with suckers.

Give your plants all the light possible and even sun in winter and early spring, so long as it does not turn the foliage yellow, as light helps increase bloom, also the size of the bloom. Be very careful not to burn foliage, as burned foliage will also disqualify your plant.

I had a misfortune befall my plants exactly one month before the show which required my removing all my blooms and most of the buds. I felt that all hopes of having any show plants were gone, but being a "die-hard", I began fertilizing heavier using Dixco and sheep tea. The sheep tea, as you know, is a weak solution made by pouring boiling water over pulverized sheep manure. This is allowed to steep for awhile and then poured off and diluted until it is about the color of weak ice tea. Ordinarily, I use one the first of the month and the other the middle of the month. This time, I used the Dixco twice as strong as I ordinarily would, using one tablespoon per gallon of water, then waiting about a week longer, I used the tea again and in about another week I used the Dixco, this time using one teaspoon per gallon of water. My plants were full of bloom and lovely for the show. The Dixco helps so much, especially the foliage.

Since my plants are in a small greenhouse, it might not work on plants in your home, but I feel it would. You might try it on a plant or two to see how it would do. My greenhouse is on the dry side, not damp and humid, as it is a lean-to.

Plants should be kept sprayed regularly as it not only makes a nicer looking plant but helps prevent disease and makes for a healthier stronger plant. I use Wonder Spray, spraying about once per month.

Always remove all old yellowed, broken leaves and old bloom stalks before entering in show.

Some of the members of our club have such lovely plants that I feel they deserve a special word. Mrs J. C. (Bobby) Bamford entered ten plants and won nine ribbons, seven of which were blues. Bobby has outstanding success with her plants, which are grown in a southern exposure in winter and northern in summer. Her Blue Girl which won as largest plant in show was also the second best plant.

Our president, Mrs. Orville (Elizabeth) Maddux (in picture), had fourteen entries and won thirteen ribbons. Her plants were lovely and she grows her violets in a northern and eastern exposure.

Mrs. Alex (Alice Wray) Taylor's Congo Queen with only about four leaves and a stalk of blooms created quite a bit of excitement. It won first prize as the smallest blooming plant. Alice Wray is interested also in dwarfs and her Dwarf Orchid won first in that class. Alice Wray's exposure is south and west, which proves you can grow a lovely show plant with proper care in any exposure.

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FRED G. LEWIS
GREENHOUSES

519 Locust St. Lockport, N. Y.

Cont. from page 29

trol the glare from the ocean and the sun light, by using perpendicular redwood slats which are adjustable on the exterior, to the south, east and west. On the inside she uses plastic and marquisette curtains. The first shelf, just below the windows, is about two feet wide, and above are two twelve-inch shelves on three sides of the room. In the center is a three tiered table about forty inches wide, the next tier is about twenty-four inches, the top about eighteen inches wide, and about eight feet long. On the top, leaves are rooted in colored bottles of water, that being the warmest place. The middle tier is used for the first planting of the rooted leaves in growing mixture in two inch pots. The table top is used for the plants after dividing, later moving them to the window shelves. This way they are gradually brought down into cooler temperature and stronger light. I have never seen anyone grow more beautiful saintpaulias, nor so rapidly. The humidity and cool ocean breeze evens the temperature so they have a green plush texture and very large blooms.

Genevieve has had a few real thrills in propagating, about ten variegated foliage plants, three having a lot of pink in with the ivory shadings. Two years ago her variegated Hearts Desire, which was very outstanding, won a Blue Ribbon Award. Another was a Supreme Mentor Boy which took First Section Award. Now she has one that is "breath taking." This sport will put California on the African violet map with other states producing unusual varieties. She grew a beautiful red violet from a leaf given to her by a friend and everyone admired it so, she put leaf after leaf down so all of us could have one, and one day, to her surprise, one of the plants opened very dark, and as it unfurled, it was tri-colored. When it first opens, it is about two shades darker than V.R.I., the eye holds that color and some of the splashes. The bloom fades slightly, the top petals stay darker than V.R.I., the three lower petals are R.V.2., the light splashes and streaks are like Tinted Lady, V.B.6. It is a perpetual bloomer, with light green leaves which are heart shaped, slightly quilted, troughed, and serrated. The plants have an upright growth of medium size. It makes me think of a dignified lady dressed in maroon velvet with light blue accessories. Genevieve has named it for her brown eyed daughter, Dorlene, who has been a Blue Ribbon grower in the Junior Division.

I contribute Genevieve's success to two things, first for her generosity, and second because she loves her violets for what they are—not for awards. The Marshes and their violets live happily together in their "Violet Paradise by the Sea."

AFRICAN VIOLET TROUBLE IN CONNECTICUT

Cont. from page 21

ward again, feeding on the roots until late May, when they develop into the bug stage. When changing from larvae to bug they are first white in color, then brown, then black and are about a quarter of an inch in length, with short blunt snouts. The adult begins to emerge when the very early strawberries begin to ripen. In addition to wintering over in the larvae stage, the adults may also winter over under trash and in strawberry crowns. These weevils are all parthenogenetic in habit, being all of the female sex, and all lay eggs. One thing to be thankful for is that they cannot fly, so only get from one place to another on foot or by being carried on infected stock or in soil.

I have had friends in several different parts of the State tell me they found these weevils on their violets during the summer and the Experiment Station had many telephone calls during July and August from various parts of the State reporting them being found in houses. Here in my home they disappeared the latter part of August just as suddenly as they appeared in July. I kept one alive in a jar for about three weeks to show friends who were coming to my home to talk African violets, during which time it ate almost all of two African violet leaves and started on a third before passing on to bug heaven.

At the time of writing these comments, the middle of November, I am still finding young plants suddenly becoming limp as though they had crown rot, but on taking them out of the soil and examining the crown I find that the outside has been almost completely girdled around at soil level and is rotting away, most of the root system having an unhealthy appearance, but the inside of the crown is still green and healthy and re-roots readily. So far I have been unable to find any indication of eggs or larvae in the soil that these plants have been grown in, but as I have only a small hand magnifying glass, it is quite possible the eggs were there without my detecting them, but I am sure I would have found the larvae had they been present. I only found these weevils in windows on our first floor. Down in the basement where they could most readily get in I did not find one, so it may be they do not care for the artificial light from my fluorescent lights.

One of the controls recommended by the Experiment Station as being most effective is either Chlordane 48% Emulsion, 16 teaspoons to one gallon of water; or Chlordane dust, 1 lb. 50% dust to 1 gallon of water; using enough to moisten the surface soil around infested plant. Due to there having been such a big demand for this insecticide, I have not yet been able to obtain a supply to use on our evergreens, but as soon as it is available I intend to try it on an African violet to test whether it will have any adverse reaction.

I am very much indebted to Mr. E. M. Stoddard and Mr. J. P. Johnson, both of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, for their kind assistance in supplying me with much of the information contained in this article.

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Patronize your local suppliers of African violets who handle any of these products. My aim is to make available by mail things that aren't obtainable locally. Dealers wanted on many of above items.

I don't sell plants or leaves. But if you do, either from home windowsill or commercial greenhouse, let me know. I will be glad to mention the fact in business correspondence going into your region.

NEIL C. MILLER
Layton's Lake
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SIGNS of the ZODIAC

Charlotte Hughes, W. Va.

Dates to follow are: January 1, 27 and 28; February 23, 24 and 25; March 23 and 24; April 19 and 20; May 17 and 18; June 13 and 14; July 10 and 11; August 6, 7 and 8; September 3, 4 and 30; October 1, 28 and 29; November 24 and 25; December 21, 22 and 23.

Some interesting facts about our almanacs are:

Any one using John Baer's Almanac of Lancaster, Pennsylvania should follow those dates, as it has been calculated for the meridian of Pennsylvania and adjoining states. These dates are two days earlier than this chart given above.

January 17th was Poor Richard's anniversary and much information was given besides that about the weather.

Many a farm wife in early days set her clock by the rising or setting of the sun. The almanac also told the farmer how to raise healthy chicks, how to get rid of rats, and how to stay awake in church -- (hold one foot off the floor). It also told his wife how to make cheese, remove grease stains, physic the cat -- (put medicine on the fur where it will be licked off).

Of course, many of the hints the Mr. and Mrs. already knew, but they still enjoyed reading them again because they liked the witty style of Poor Richard. . "If Jack's in love he's no judge of Jill's beauty! . . . The most exquisite folly is made of wisdom spun too fine . . . . . He that pursues two hares at once, does not catch one and let t'other go" . . . . . as written by Benjamin Franklin in his Poor Richard.

The old Farmer's Almanac has been published in New England without interruption since 1792. At one stage, in preparation of its 1816 edition, a prediction for July 13th was lacking and the typesetter improvised "rain, snow and hail," expecting the editor to make the proper correction on the proof. The prediction was changed to "dull" ... and when July 13th came, it rained, snowed, and hailed!

Similar in pattern, the Hagerstown Town and Country Almanac dates it's operation from 1797. In 1874 it predicted and produced snow on the 4th of July.

A VIOLET TEA

Cont. from page 17

It was a splendid opportunity for women from a radius of fifty miles to get together with others sharing the same interests, and to talk over mutual problems and processes. There were about one hundred and seventy-five blooming plants on display of about sixty different varieties.

Mrs. Harland's violets seem never to stop blooming, and her blossoms are consistently and unusually large. Some of them have measured as much as two inches and more across the widest part of the bloom. Her own opinion seems to be that the soil she uses is largely responsible, although most of her friends aver that "she just has a way with violets." She lives in the country, and periodically makes trips to a near-by wood, where she secures earth, preferably from near a rotting stump of a long-dead tree. She mixes this with some well rotted cow manure, but warns that unless the manure is old and well rotted, it will burn the delicate roots of the violet plants. She adds a little peat moss and sand to this mixture, and — she declares — that's all she does except to water them when they need it, giving a little plant food now and then in soluble form.

In regard to watering, Mrs. Harland advises the "finger-tip" method to learn when the plants are thirsty. If you feel no moisture, then water them, but if the top soil is damp to the touch, no water is needed. Always use warm water, and she prefers to water from below, keeping plants on the dry side rather than too wet.

As for blossoms, Mrs. Harland seems to think that plants produce more blossoms if kept in small pots, and her violets are certainly a standing advertisement of her methods. Some people prefer one crown plants only; Mrs. Harland has many one crown plants and some large and showy multiple crown plants. Both kinds are flourishing, and both seem beautifully symmetrical, so it seems to be a matter of choice — and perhaps skill.

Those fortunate enough to be able to attend the tea remember it with distinct pleasure as a wholly unique event in the annals of African violets. It is an idea that might well be followed by other enthusiasts, for it fosters valuable knowledge on the care of violets, as well as invaluable and enduring friendships.

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THREE OUTSTANDING VARIETIES FOR EVERY ONE'S COLLECTION.

LACY GIRL, GYPSY ALMA GIRL GYPSY PINK

Gypsy Alma Girl has beautiful bronze foliage with blush reddish spot at the base of the leaf which blends into the leaf making it rich in color, which carries through the blossom. The lower petals are a pale orchid, the top petals shading deeper with a very deep tip, making the flower and the foliage a beautiful combination.

Gypsy Pink is very deep pink, flowers are of a heavy texture and stay on a longer length of time

Lacy Girl and Gypsy Alma Girl, $3.00 each or 2 for $5.00. Gypsy Pink $2.50 each or 2 for $4.00

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Batavia, N. Y.

LOW HUMIDITY CAUSES FAILURE

By the Editor

The first summer I had a green house, my plants began to look dried out as soon as the real hot weather began. Summer time is warm in Tennessee! The hot sun beat down on the roof until my little greenhouse was more like an oven than a place to grow plants. The ceiling is low, and it can get dry and hot inside very quickly. Humidity seemed non-existent.

One evening when I was feeling "mighty low," a friend who had successful greenhouse called me to inquire about my violets. I had to tell her that they were awful . . . that they had apparently started to dry up, as all the firm green appearance and crisp feeling had gone out of the foliage. They had almost stopped blooming and what flowers I did have were small and ratty looking. "I knew," I said, "that something bad was wrong with my greenhouse, and I was sorry that I had ever put my plants in it."

My friend said that she believed she could make some suggestions that would help, because the first summer that she had her greenhouse she, too, had trouble. Her advice, when followed, removed my little greenhouse from the failure into the pleasure class.

Humidity Increased

Inside the greenhouse it was recommended that I place 3 inches of river sand over the floor. Over this was placed finely crushed lime stone. It was piled a foot deep under the benches. Then the floor (the stones and sand) was wet down thoroughly. What a difference the cooler, damper air made! Before this, I always wet the floor down both night and morning, but it didn't hold the moisture very long. Now the moisture stayed.

On the benches galvanized pans 3 inches deep were filled with a coarse grade of vermiculite to a depth of 2 inches and over this was placed an inch of crushed stone. When this was wet down and the plants placed on the stones, the humidity was increased at their level.

Humidiguide

With the purchase of a Humidiguide to record the inside humidity, a close check could be kept on the rise and fall of the moisture content in the greenhouse. When the humidity fell below average, the floor was wet down and the inside sprayed with the hose.

Watering

The way the plants were watered played an important role in my attempts to increase the humidity at this hot dry time. Watering was done in the early morning hours when the temperature was low. Plants watered on a rising temperature are dry before evening, and they can enjoy the slow evaporation all day. My violets just loved this. They grew husky and the leaves again had that firm, shiny, green, healthy look.

My method of watering from June thru September is with the garden hose. Twisting the nozzle until a fine spray comes thru, I shower the plants about 8 o'clock in the morning approximately every other day, depending on how hot and dry it is and whether they need watering or not.

Shade Was Necessary

More shade was recommended to keep the greenhouse cooler. To cut down on the hot sunlight, five layers of tobacco cloth were placed over the roof and sides. Each afternoon about 3 o'clock, when the day is hottest and driest, this tobacco cloth was sprayed with the hose. The result was that the greenhouse seemed to be cooled down quite a lot within a short while.

Before one month, from the date of this helpful conversation, had passed, my saintpaulias took a new lease on life, and began to look as they should look.

Let the Moon and Stars

Guide You in Growing Violets

Florence Allen, Ohio

During the past year, I have been advocating "sign planting" in violet culture to the members of my pigeon group No. 43.

In the Bible we find the following regarding this subject: "Let there be light to divide the day from night; and let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and for years." Gen. 1:14. "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose; a time to be born, a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted." Eccl. III:1-8.

Every one has heard of the twelve signs of the Zodiac. Many scientists express the belief that the stars control man's destiny, some never undertaking anything of importance without ascertaining if the "stars" are favorable. Each constellation, besides controlling certain parts of the body, has wet or dry tendencies, barren or productive, and masculine and feminine characteristics. In order to escape the barren sign, I find planting best done during the signs of Scorpio, Pisces, Taurus or Cancer - all fruitful signs. Since Libra represents beauty in form or color, it is best for flowers. Seeds should be planted during the first quarter of the moon, unless seeds from the plant are desired, in which case planting should be done between the second quarter and full moon. Sunday planting is thought not to succeed, since it is ruled by the sun and considered dry and barren. Planting in the sign of Cancer, which is the most fruitful of all the Zodiac, has proved most successful for me, especially in rooting leaves. It results in a quick and heavy root system. I then transplant in the sign of Libra for flower production.

- TO WATER -

Lift planter and pour water into reservoir

(base)

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(PAT. PEND.)

Wick-Fed, Self-Watering, Self-Aerating

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AFRICAN VIOLETS

All we ask is that you purchase one of our WICK PLANTERS and try one of your choice plants in it. After that we feel the planter itself will so convince you of its worth that you will not be satisfied until you have one for each of your African Violet plants.

The Kellems Wick Planter is made from fine Ceramic materials, is designed to look well in the better parts of your home and is based on scientific principles to grow exceptionally fine plants.

Ask your favorite Flower Store to show you the Kellems Planters. If he doesn't stock them at present, he can order them for you from our factory listed below.

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REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

NEIL C. MILLER

PART I.

The following applications have been received, or have been accepted, during the period January 1 to April 1, 1951. No objections to registration are apparent to the Committee.

Diana 7-11-49	Mrs. Harry M. Godfrey, 425 E. Plymouth St., Long Beach 5, Cal.
Tex-Ann 1-6-51	Mr. V. V. Waite, 4430 Abbott Avenue, Dallas 5, Texas
Sea Queen 1-9-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Violette Baby Doll 1-9-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Violette Bronze Baby 1-9-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Violette Pixie 1-9-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Bronze Queen 1-9-51	Mrs. F. W. Gammell, 2415 Des Moines St., Des Moines 16, Iowa
Rosette Red 1-9-51	Mrs. F. W. Gammell, 2415 Des Moines St., Des Moines 16, Iowa
Sweetheart 1-15-51	Mrs. William Rodda, Box 6, Ossian, Indiana
Red Duke 1-15-51	Mrs. William Rodda, Box 6 Ossian, Indiana
Marmaduke 1-15-51	Mrs. William Rodda, Box 6 Ossian, Indiana
Baby Girl Spoon 1-15-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Double Doris 1-15-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Evening Star 1-15-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Fuchsia Spoon 1-15-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Mulberry Girl 1-15-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar, 1223 East Oak Park, Des Moines 16, Iowa
Hope 1-19-51	Mrs. Pauline Bradley, 309 So. Main St., Maryville, Mo.
Lady Bette 1-19-51	Mrs. Pauline Bradley, 309 So. Main St., Maryville, Mo.
Orchid Compacta 2-1-51	Mrs. Lela Reichert, 3114 Charles St., Omaha, Nebraska
Charro 2-12-51	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 9927 E. Howland Avenue, Temple City, Cal.
Debutante 2-12-51	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 9927 E. Howland Avenue, Temple City, Cal.
Jinaro 2-12-51	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 9927 E. Howland Avenue, Temple City, Cal.
Swirling Girl 2-12-51	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 9927 E. Howland Avenue, Temple City, Cal.
Beauty Girl 2-12-51	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 9927 E. Howland Avenue, Temple City, Cal.
Junette 2-12-51	Mrs. Edith B. Hendrix, 9927 E. Howland Avenue, Temple City, Cal.
Sunset Lane 3-16-51	Mrs. Carolyn K. Rector, P. O. Box 94, San Pedro, Cal.
Fontana 3-16-51	Mrs. Carolyn K. Rector, P. O. Box 94, San Pedro, Cal.
Thunderhead 3-9-51	Mrs. Margaret Travis, 306 Old State Road, Knoxville 15, Tenn.
Queen Of Hearts 3-26-51	Mrs. Lulu Hastings, R.R. 1, Florence, Indiana
Flamingo Girl 3-26-51	Mrs. Lulu Hastings, R.R. 1, Florence, Indiana

PART II.

First, let's get a couple ladies back home. The printer got two lines of type traded in the March Report and thereby did the quickest moving job on record. The applications concerned, and the ladies who can now rejoin their families, are:

Salem Maiden 11-27-50	Mrs. Jessie M. Lewis, 323 Morrison Avenue, Salem, N. J.
Joel's Delight 12-19-50	Mrs. Ted Hanusa 34 Orchard Avenue, Council Bluffs, Iowa

The most commonly occuring error in applying for Registration is that application is being made on first generation seedlings. First generation seedlings are not registerable as such because they have not been "thoroughly tested through propagation by leaf cutting" as required by Section 18 of the Code of Rules for Nomenclature and Registration.The minimum number of leaf propagations (generations) needs to be further defined, but it can't be less than one, so a seedling must have gone through at least one vegetative propagation before an application can be made upon it.

The same rule also applies to plants developed by any other process.

The most frequent criticism of the Registration procedure, and a criticism which is unquestionably justified, is that no plant descriptions have been published in the past, that only names have been given. Steps are being taken to correct this situation. All applicants are now required to furnish a brief written description of each plant, in addition to the formalized recital of characteristics on the Application blank. These descriptions are not botanical, rather they are "violet-talk" descriptions such as would be given a friend in telling what a plant is like, what known plants resemble it most closely, and in what ways it is superior. Thus the basis on which the plant is considered superior and worthy of registration is clearly expressed. These descriptions, furnished by the applicants, will be published with as little editing as possible. In this way wider comparison can be made on the claims.

NAME RESERVATION

A function of the Registration Committee which has been inadequately publicised, and which has consequently been little used, is that of Name Reservation. Upon application, and verification of no-conflict from the Master File of Varieties, a name can be reserved for the sole use of the applicant. A plant to which the name is to be applied must be in existence when the reservation is made. Reservation is for a period of two years, unless made permanent earlier by Registration, but can be renewed for a second two year period if the plant still shows promise but is not yet ready to be registered.

Name Registration is meant to fill an obvious gap in the Registration practice which can be best expressed by the question "What can be done with a promising plant except give it a name?" At present the only thing to do is to tack on a propagation number, or give it some identification tag (like Mary's Fluted Seedling), or join together such characteristic features as Red Spoon Girl, etc. All these practices frequently cause difficulties because all identifications so applied tend to settle away as names and to become established as such so that actually choosing a name later for Registration becomes difficult or in itself starts one variety off with two or more names.

Name Reservation gives the plant developer an opportunity to refer to the plant by one name and one name only as it is taken through its proving vegetative propagations and as comparisons are made concerning it.

A name reservation can be relinquished whenever the reservee decides to do so, as for instance, when it appears evident that the plant is not superior, and is not worth further development.

A list of names reserved (and relinquished) will be a part of each Registration Report in the future. Names of the persons making the reservations will not be published, as no useful function would be performed thereby.

It should be noted that Name Reservation does not in any way indicate that the Society endorses the plant either as a distinct variety, or as an improvement over an existing variety. It simply provides for the use, during the propagation-testing period, of a name which can later be registered if the plant itself proves to be registerable.

The amount of correspondence expressing opinion on plants on which applications have been received has increased nicely since the March Report, calling attention to the need for such expression of opinion, was published. Keep it up.

Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd. St.
Perry, Iowa.

Deadline for Sept. Club News July 1st

NEW CLUB ORGANIZED

The T, e, oga African Violet Club was organized January 12, 1951, at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. A. W. Truesdale, East Athens, Pa. Constitution and by-laws were drawn up and adopted. The following officers were elected for a term of one year:

President,	Mrs. Ray Nobles
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. G. L. Duggan
Secy.,	Mrs. A. W. Truesdale
Treasurer,	Mrs. Gladys DePuis

At present there are fifteen members of the club, eleven of whom are members of the National Society. The name T, e, oga is an Indian name meaning two rivers. The Susquehanna and Chemung Rivers join at T, e, oga Point. There are three towns joined together, Waverly, Sayre, and Athens, with Towanda eighteen miles below on the river. Members from all these cities belong to this club.

Meetings are held once a month in the members' homes, with an open meeting held at regular intervals for non-members to assist them with their problems

SPRINGFIELD PENNA.

The African Violet Society of Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, elected the following officers for the year 1951:

President,	Mrs. Howard Morris
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ralph G. Frye
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. James W. Craig
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Daniel J. Grew
Treasurer,	Mrs. Philip W. Filing

At the January meeting, Mrs. Donald Taber gave a most interesting talk on "Soil Formula". After an exchange of African violet leaves to be used as test plants one year from now, the members received their 1951 year books.

MINNEAPOLIS CLUB

Just two years ago, the first Minneapolis African Violet Club (Blue Boy Chapter) was organized with a limited membership of ten members. So many requests for membership were received and could not be accepted, it was decided to file the names and try to get other clubs started in various parts of the city. At this date, there are fourteen other clubs in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and the suburbs. Many more applicants are waiting for other clubs to form or to fill vacancies in those already started.

At a meeting held in January, representatives of all these clubs met to form an executive board. The purpose of this is to enable the clubs to work together more closely on planned projects and to help each other in various ways with suggestions and ideas for promoting interest in African violets.

Two projects are being worked on at this time. Two years ago, when the club was just started, the first African violet show was held and proved successful. It is now planned to hold the second non-competitive show in early Spring.

The second project they hope to work out is the hospital and shut-in plan. Although this is already being carried on by some of the clubs, the aim is to visit rest homes, homes for the aged and some hospitals, and furnish African violet plants, leaves, and cultural matter to patients who want plants and are able to care for them. The patients visited have been very happy and enthusiastic and have made those who helped feel the effort is well worthwhile.

During the past year, two joint meetings have been held with special programs, one of which was a discussion of many original and unusual ideas for using African violets in home arrangements.

PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY

On Thursday, January 4, 1951, ten members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. met at the home of Mrs. Rose Ebenfuhrer to form a Philadelphia branch. Officers were elected, and it was decided to hold meetings the first Thursday of each month.

Officers elected are:

President,	Mrs. Stanley Nelson
Secretary,	Mrs. Rose Ebenfuhrer
Treasurer,	Miss Czarina Hall

JACKSON, MICH.

On November 15, 1950, a group of violet lovers met at the home of Mrs. R. S. Preston with the Regional Councilor, Mrs. Phyllis Ferrall, to form a violet club. The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. R. S. Preston
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. R. Clemet
Secretary,	Mrs. D. L. Bowers
Treasurer,	Mrs. E. B. Baker

CHICAGO, ILL.

The Elite Chapter of the First African Violet Society of Chicago was organized on March 9, 1951. The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. R. Trendler
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. Erwin
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. P. Gellinger
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. L. Cooper
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. H. L. MacKenzie
Treasurer,	Mrs. A. J. Miller
Reporter,	Mrs. H. Hiltz

Mrs. Mary Mayer opened the meeting by introducing Mrs. Magill, Regional Chairman, who conducted the first meeting of the newly formed club. Membership will be limited to twenty-four members. Meetings will be held on the second Friday of each month at 1:30 p. m. for dessert luncheon in the homes of the members.

SACRAMENTO, CAL.

A new society was recently formed at Sacramento, California, by Mrs. George Mac Clanahan and Mrs. Elizabeth Stobbins, which will be known officially as the Sacramento Saintpaulia Society. The regular meeting date is the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p. m. at the Garden Center. Mrs. Hugo Hall was elected president.

OAK RIDGE, TENN.

The recently organized Neptune section of the Oak Ridge African Violet Society announces the election of the following officers:

Chairman,	Mrs. Porter Orr, Jr.
Co-Chairman,	Mrs. John Hooper, Jr.
Secretary,	Mrs. George Kuipers
Treasurer,	Mrs. John Coston

WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Metropolitan African Violet Society of Washington, D. C., announces the installation of their new officers for 1951 as follows:

President,	Mrs. Edith Hoy
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Eunice Toms
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. D. G. Clever
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. DeForrest Baker
Treasurer,	Mrs. Eunice Mercer

The new officers are planning what promises to be an interesting program for the year. There will be talks and demonstrations by members and non-members on various phases of African violet culture and arrangement. There will be seedlings to be well started and then distributed among the members, grown and later compared. There are plans for a spring show. A membership drive will be launched, from which new friends as well as new members will be realized.

The members of the Metropolitan African Violet Club added interest and variety to their show experiences by accepting the invitation of the National Capital Canary Club to join them in staging a fall show of birds and saintpaulias. The combination of the many beautiful birds and the violets made an extremely interesting show, and attracted many more people than either the birds or the violets alone.

The exhibit plants were lovely and the judges had to look carefully to pick their winners. Mrs. Martha Husted headed the list for the most blue ribbons. and Mrs. A. N. Carter for the most red ribbons.

The violet exhibit was located near the center of the hall, well lighted and surrounded by birds -- both a colorful and a tuneful setting. In addition to the show plants, there was a complete educational exhibit with an attendant to answer the many questions. Near the entrance to the hall the members held a plant sale, which attracted a gratifying amount of interest from the visitors.

All in all, it was felt that this combination show was an interesting variation and a great success, as well as lots of fun, (and work too, of course,) for all the members.

NEW JERSEY CLUB

In April, 1950, the Glouchester County African Violet Society was organized. Officers elected were:

President,	Mrs. J. Wilmer Zee
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. O. W. Richman
Secretary,	Mrs. Herman Wagner
Treasurer,	Mrs. Robert Kinkead

At present there are twelve members in the club.

AURORA, ILL.

The following officers, elected recently by the Admiral African Violet Society of Aurora, Illinois, were installed at a meeting at the home of Miss Eda Staffeldt:

President, Mrs. Mark Livingston
Vice-Pres., Mrs. E. G. Magill
Secretary, Mrs. Alfred Weingartner
Treasurer, Mrs. Robert Travis
Historian, Mrs. Harry Weller
Librarian, Mrs. Ralph Pulver
Ways and Means, Mrs. Robert Brown
Program,
Mrs. E. G. Magill Mrs. Samuel Rowe

Mrs. Walter read a poem, "The Birth of the Saintpaulia" by Charlene Kibbling. Mrs. Magill talked on "Sports and Mutations". Each member who had a perfect attendance record for the past year was presented with a violet plant.

Mrs. Magill entertained the Admiral African Violet Society at a luncheon meeting and Christmas party at her home. The table was decorated with a sleigh and Santa. Soft music was played by a music box concealed in the sleigh. Streamers led from the sleigh to place cards which were African violets.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, a short business meeting was held. Mrs. Magill showed slides of violet plants. Mrs. Lawrence Davis won an award for guessing the most names of the violets shown.

McKEESPORT, PA.

The first birthday anniversary of the McKeesport African Violet Society was marked with a luncheon meeting held November 2, 1950, in the Penn McKee Hotel. Arrangements for the affair were made by Mrs. C. A. Nelson and her aides, Mrs. Walter Seastedt and Mrs. T. J. Matthews, who made the favors for the event, miniature broad-brimmed hats in African violet colors.

Toastmistress was Mrs. Nelson. Three readings were given by a guest speaker from Wilmerding. The white anniversary cake was decorated in the colors of the African violets and formed the centerpiece for the speakers' table. Other tables were appointed with African violet plants. Corsages were presented to Mrs. W. B. Renshaw, president and Mrs. R. L. Fait, past president and founder of the club.

The invocation was given by Mrs. A. E. Rojohn. Mrs. Renshaw commended the committee for the luncheon and spoke of the progress made in a year of work by the society. Mrs. Fait briefly reviewed the history of the club, speaking of the time she acquired her first African violet plant and continuing with her discovery of others in the community interested in the plant and of the eventual organization of the McKeesport Society. The original club of thirteen members has now grown to a total membership of thirty.

Because of the success of the first violet show held on May 26, 1950, at the Penn McKee Hotel, another show is planned for the current year.

TRENTON PLANS SHOW

The African Violet Society of Trenton, New Jersey formerly the African Violet Society of New Jersey is preparing to stage a fall show in the Trenton War Memorial Building in Trenton, N. J. on October 4th from 2:00 P. M. to 10:00 P. M. and on October 5th from 10:00 A. M. to 10:00 P. M.
There will be 8 classes and all flower clubs are extended a cordial invitation to show their violets. Non-members will have four classes open for their exhibits. For information contact the show chairman, Edgar Harris, State Highway No. 25, Burlington, New Jersey.

JUNCTION CITY CLUB

The first meeting of the Junction City, Kansas African Violet Club was held April 9th at the home of the newly elected president. Officers for the coming year are:

President, Mrs. E. D. Hammond
Vice-Pres., Albert More
Secy-Treas., Mrs. Raymond Delgardo

WANT EXTRA GROWTH AND VIGOR?

Use ATLAS FERTILIZER EMULSION an all-organic, complete plant food. Contains 22 minerals and trace elements plus B-complex vitamins. No burning. Dilute with water. One pint make 32-96 gallons. Ideal for AFRICAN VIOLETS and all plants - flowers, vegetables, fruits, lawns.

D-Vista Gardens, Salem, Oregon, says: "Results have been excellent. The violets took on fine color and the blooms have been large."

Send $1.00 for trial pint, postage prepaid.

ATLAS FERTILIZER EMULSION
Room 807 - No. 1 Drumm St.
San Francisco, California

Hospital African Violet Club

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

Most persons who do gardening seldom realize the social and therapeutic benefits they experience from working in the soil. Nevertheless, the happy fact is that gardening has millions of devotees and, because of this, is one of the greatest means of establishing new relationships with other people. Herein lies its social advantage. The simple fact that a person works with his hands, and in so doing assists Mother Nature to carry out her work, serves as a restful and satisfying emotional experience. Herein lies the therapeutic benefit of this activity.

Both of these factors are carefully considered in the planning and execution of our hospital Special Services rehabilitation program. Establishing new relationships and providing new satisfying experiences are two of the techniques most used in the treatment of emotionally disturbed people —especially those who are having difficulty in making normal and satisfying social adjustments.

Through the process of making a few minor adaptations to fit a particular and personal situation and by actually applying these adaptations to a small gardening program, we at this hospital have developed an interesting African Violet gardening project. This gardening project serves as another modality in our efforts to help with the social readjustment of some of our mentally ill patients. Today it is rather common knowledge that mentally ill patients need to experience satisfactions; also, that we should make every effort to help these patients maintain contact with reality. Gardening as a hobby is especially suited to provide these mentally sick patients with the opportunity to enjoy both of these experiences. The members of the American Women's Voluntary Services, who sponsor and operate the African Violet Club, see to it that these experiences are realized by the patients interested in this type of hobby.

Early in 1950, the American Women's Voluntary Services started an African Violet Club at this hospital. The enthusiasm and interest in this Club was immediate and several patients demonstrated their interest and knowledge in this highly fascinating side of gardening. This is not a large project, for like most hobby activities the membership is small and select. From five to eight patients maintain a continuing interest in the program. However, other patients are interested in gardening too, and many of them plant and maintain vegetable and flower gardens on their own.

In all, about 75 patients are interested in some form of gardening and are deriving a great amount of personal satisfaction from their work. The patient does this work for the pleasure his own creation affords him, and if he regains his self respect and confidence through gardening, which is sometimes the case, the hobby establishes itself as a helpful and therapeutic modality.

The small talk, the interpersonal relationships, the creative joy, and many other so-called intangibles—all play their respective parts in this rehabilitation program for the patient. But the African Violet Club, in this case, establishes itself as the vehicle which brings these other factors together so that the necessary rehabilitative interaction can take place.

TWO FINE NEW PRODUCTS FOR YOUR VIOLETS....

VIOLET LAZY SUZAN

Our Violet Lazy Suzan is the last word in proper display for those favorite house plants. A gentle push will revolve the three tiers in the pedestal. This feature enables you to change the position of your plants which is important in the proper culture of plants that receive indirect sunlight. All plants are made readily accessible for watering and other care with practically no effort.

The Suzan is a very useful table in many other ways in the home. It is well constructed of plywood; weighs 17 lbs.; is 40" in height with 10" between tiers. It is 24" in diameter and the tiers will hold 10 to 12 large plants or 20 to 24 small ones. Available in natural finish only or unfinished and ready for staining to match surrounding furniture.

Prices - Parcel Post Prepaid:

Violet Lazy Suzan Unfinished @ $12.50
Violet Lazy Suzan - Finished @ $14.95

Gro-Mulch is the wonderful new all organic material that is being talked about in garden circles. Gro-Mulch is mellowed in the aging deposits of Spanish Moss that have lain for over 50 years in the bayou section of South Louisiana. Earthworms that are attracted by the tender moss particles, have converted the deposits into a superlatively rich soil conditioner. The deposits are recovered, dehydrated, refined and packed into bags for your use.

A mixture of one part Gro-Mulch to two parts of soil will make a superlatively rich medium in which to grow your plants. The luxuriant growth and colorful blooms in greater quantities will delight you.

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ORCHID BI-GIRL Fine white blossom with an orchid border. A dainty, lady-like violet with an aristocratic mien. Blossoms are carried well above girl type foliage. $2.25

TOTAL $7.25

ALL PLANTS IN BLOOM

SPECIAL - ALL THREE PLANTS $6.00 POSTPAID

RED - WHITE - BLUE SPECIAL

REG. CAT. PRICE

LADY GENEVA We offer very large, exhibition type plants of Lady Geneva out of 4" pots. This lovely violet with the pure white, twinkling edge against a blue-violet background has been a favorite with fanciers everywhere. Your chance to get exhibition size plants at a new low price $2.00

RED KING We've found it to be the best of the reds. Clear, strong, claret-red blossoms lay over the entire top of the plant. Ordinary, good care gives 50-60 blossoms at a time! Deep, heavy, woods green foliage, slightly quilted $2.00

WHITE BEAUTY Fine white, quite similar to Blue-Eyed Beauty with clear blue border around a neat white flower. Fine, green foliage and an exceptionally good bloomer $2.00

TOTAL $6.00

SPECIAL - ALL THREE PLANTS $5.00 POSTPAID

STAR-OF-BETHLEHEM $3.00 Postpaid

We introduce a fine, new multi-color. Mrs. Kellar showed it at the convention for us. A violet of dazzling contrasts! Imagine a midnight blue, wavy blossom with a clear white star in the center! It is the most radiant, airy, ethereal violet you can conceive. We are accepting orders now for FALL DELIVERY ONLY

WRITE FOR WHOLESALE PRICE LIST

We will have available soon wholesale quantities of our new introductions, SEAFOAM SEA QUEEN, ROSETTE RED, VIOLETTES (miniatures of teacup size), BRONZE QUEEN, ORIENTAL GIRL. LATER WE WILL HAVE STAR-OF-BETHLEHEM AND MANY OTHER FINE NEW VIOLETS. Write for special wholesale arrangement that makes it so easy for you to make money in spare time work you enjoy

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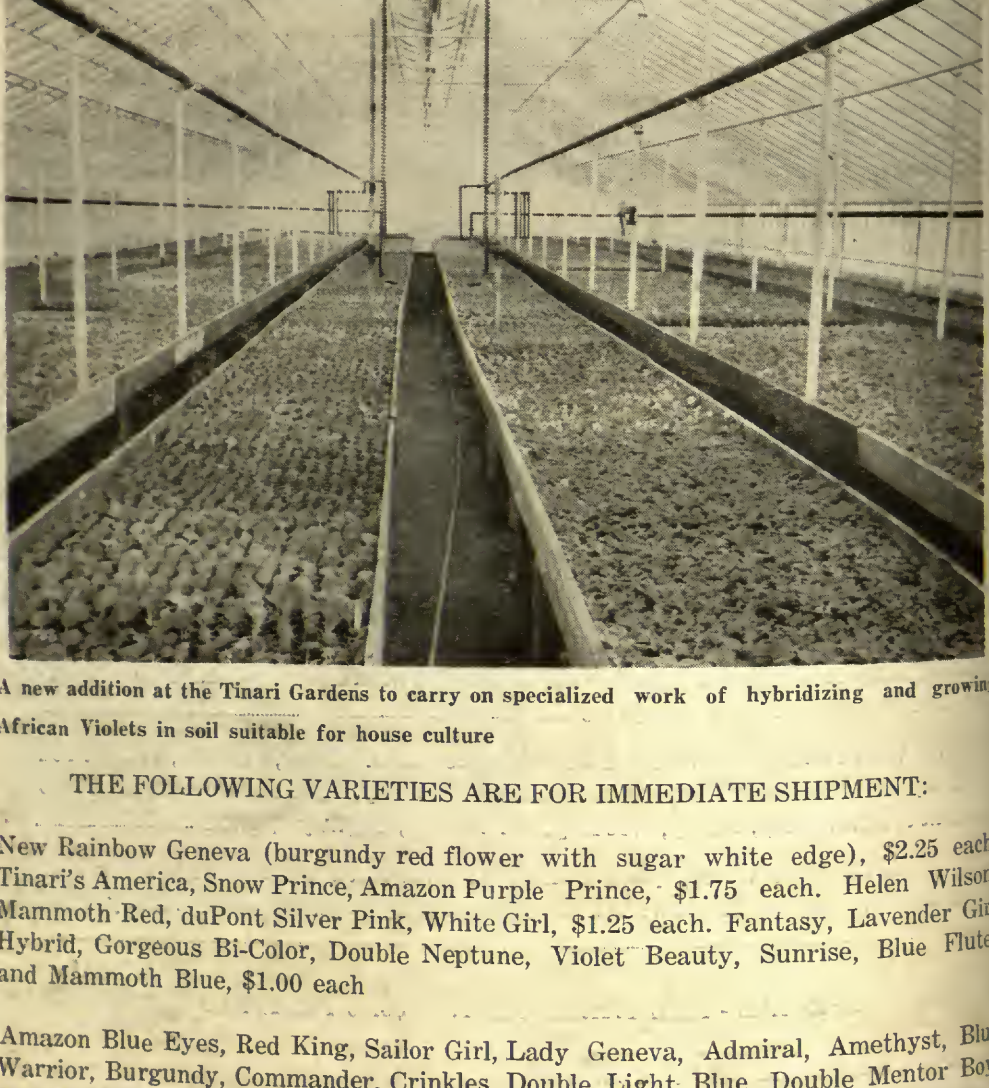
TINARI'S



A new addition at the Tinari Gardens to carry on specialized work of hybridizing and growing African Violets in soil suitable for house culture

THE FOLLOWING VARIETIES ARE FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT:

New Rainbow Geneva (burgundy red flower with sugar white edge), $2.25 each. Tinari's America, Snow Prince, Amazon Purple Prince, $1.75 each. Helen Wilson, Mammoth Red, duPont Silver Pink, White Girl, $1.25 each. Fantasy, Lavender Girl Hybrid, Gorgeous Bi-Color, Double Neptune, Violet Beauty, Sunrise, Blue Flute, and Mammoth Blue, $1.00 each

Amazon Blue Eyes, Red King, Sailor Girl, Lady Geneva, Admiral, Amethyst, Blue Warrior, Burgundy, Commander, Crinkles, Double Light Blue, Double Mentor Boy, Double Margaret, duPont Lav. Pink, duPont Blue, Freida, Jessie, Mentor Boy, Neptune, Pink Beauty, Plum Satin, Purple Girl, Purple Prince, Red Bi-Color, Red Land, Pale Orchid Double, Ruffles, Tinari's Blue Eyes, White Waterlily, Norseman, 75¢ each . . . . . 10 for $7.00 Postpaid

Plants chosen from large stock of 100,000 plants.

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Saintpaulia Growers, Specialists, Hybridizers

New 1951 Catalog sent on request. BETHAYRES, PA.

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African Violet Magazine

SURPLUS
SEP 11

SEPTEMBER 1951 VOLUME 5 NUMBER 1

LACY GIRL $3.25 (see picture above)

This is the first of a new series of fancy varieties, and is sure to win prizes for you in any show. Darkest blue-violet giant-sized flowers with heavily fringed and fuzzy rick-rack type margins on the petal edges. Never before has any variety been the BEST SELLER in my catalog during the same season it was introduced -- really a most unusual record, but then, it's a most unusual variety!

HERE'S THE NEWEST IN SAINTPAULIAS . . .

One of the greatest thrills of collecting African Violets comes from the addition of an exceptionally choice variety.
We are very proud to offer these outstanding introductions by Ulery's of Ohio . . . the result of years of cross hybridization! My sister and I selected these exquisite creations as the BEST of many new ones displayed by Ulery's at the African Violet Convention held in Dayton in 1951. They're magnificient! Buy as many as you can afford!

PAINTED GIRL $2.75

White flower with a heavy band of bright orchid at the petal edges, sometimes extending to the center of the flower. Profuse bloomer. A lively pattern and sure to attract excited comments from your neighbors.

VELVET GIRL $3.00

Captivating pansy-like flowers. Lower petals mostly rich orchid in tone with a permanent red-garnet edging at the outside tips. Two upper petals solid velvety dark red-garnet which doesn't fade! Something new in the bi-color class.

ULERY'S BLUE WONDER $3.00

A really striking marbleized flower in white and brilliant marine blue, more intense in the center. Grow it in your sunniest window for sharpest coloration and design. Great opportunities to win the title of HEAVIEST BLOOMER with this one. Big flowers. Light green foliage, white stems, clean cut finish.

BLUE HEIRESS $3.00

Brilliant blue DuPont seedling with heavily scalloped "girl-type" foliage and superior habits. Giant sized flowers of "supreme" substance and heavy stalks. Profuse bloomer with lots of color. Grows precisely, to great size. Color between Sailor Girl and Neptune.

FOR THE TRUE FANCIER

Prize-Winning NEW Double Varieties

AZURE BEAUTY (white and blue)

ORCHID SUNSET (dark orchid-wine)

SAILOR'S DELIGHT (double Sailor Girl)

$3.25 each 2/$6.25 3/$9.00

Extra large flowers of beautiful coloring which open up widely and every blossom is sure to mature. Read more about this new double-flowering strain of Ulery's in my Fall catalog. Pictured too! Our packing methods keep the plant roots moist, keeps the flowers in good condition so you won't be disappointed. BUT . . . it gets cold here in Michigan quicker in the winter time, better hustle in your catalog inquiry or maybe your order???

A SAD EXPERIENCE

Remember last December? When the railroad strike tied up all parcel post? We mailed 800 plants just the day before, every one froze too. Our customers were glad they ordered from us, because WE STOOD THE WHOLE LOSS OURSELVES . . . sent them brand new fresh plants first thing this Spring at no cost. Makes for satisfied repeat customers, which are the basis of our business.

We positively mean our guarantee of "YOU BE THE JUDGE, we're anxious to please!" This year on late orders, shall I hold your order till Spring or return your money? We do not ship during winter months. For a lovelier window garden this fall, write me today!

MONEY SAVING PRICE REDUCTIONS EFFECTIVE NOW

It looked as tho we might have too many Spring 1951 catalogs so we sent them to A. V. M. Members in July. The color of ink used "wine-red" is EXACTLY THE SAME COLOR as "The Ohio Giant" @ $2.50, listed in Fall 1951 catalog. (THE OHIO GIANT is the same variety as Ulery's Orchid Velvet). "THE OHIO GIANT" is the darkest loudest wine-orchid we've ever sold! Gigantic flowers of heaviest substance, 6 to 8 buds. Round furry leaves, thick stems. If you can't locate the Spring catalog, remember our Fall 1951 catalog SAVES YOU MONEY — as follows:

Blue Eyed Beauty	NOW $2.50
Blue Warrior	NOW $1.25
Lady Geneva	NOW $2.00
Lavender Beauty	NOW $2.25
Orchid Wonder	NOW $2.50
Snow Prince	NOW $2.75
Violet Beauty	NOW $2.25
White Girl	NOW $2.50

ALL OUR PRICES ARE POSTPAID IF YOU BUY ONE PLANT OR A DOZEN!

OUR CATALOG is FREE

Write today or order direct from this page, we'll include a copy in your package. You'll notice a lot of older varieties are discontinued because the newer kinds are much nicer. Why not be one of our customers, and ALWAYS get our catalog "ahead of the rush". Earliest orders get biggest plants. Sound business practice forces us to economize by eliminating the non-buyers from our regular mailing list. Don't be left out! If you just order the small "POKON PLANT FOOD" @ 45c postpaid, you'll be one of "our customers" — get our catalog regularly twice a year!

BIG NEWS — We've Moved. Our greenhouse is not full of African Violets yet but we can still take good care of all mail orders you send us.

"African Violets For Beginners and Collectors"

MRS. JENNIE SPOUTZ

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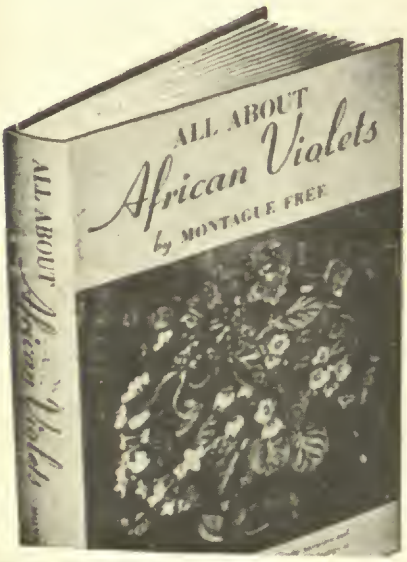

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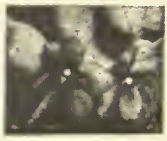
Montague Free's ALL ABOUT AFRICAN VIOLETS

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SUCCESS WITH SAINTPAULIAS

WITH 111 PHOTOGRAPHS

Specially made to illustrate favorite Varieties and step-by-step culture and propagation

AND 28 FULL-COLOR DRAWINGS



One step in the pollination of Saintpaulias: the removal of anther prior to opening it to get pollen.

At last — the one long awaited, complete and authoritative book on the most popular of all house plants is soon due from the press! Everyone who loves African Violets will welcome this lavishly illustrated "how-to" book explaining every step of their culture and propagation.

Here is everything you want to know about Saintpaulias - proper growing conditions, soils, fertilizers, potting, watering, propagation, combating pests and diseases, growing for exhibition, greenhouse culture, and much more.

Montague Free, the author of this new book, was for 25 years Horticulturist for the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, and is now staff Horticulturist for The Home Garden Magazine. Many years of experience in growing and studying African Violets have given him an unequalled understanding of the plant and its requirements. He covers every step for you in simple, non-technical style. The magnificent series of 111 specially-made photographs plus 28 full-color drawings of characteristic flowers and leaves, showing the wide variations, leave no detail to the imagination.

Look at All the Useful and Detailed Information This Book Gives You!

WHAT ARE AFRICAN VIOLETS
Early Development; Saintpaulia Companions

GROWING CONDITIONS
Temperature and Humidity; How to Make the Air Humid; Terrariums for Saintpaulias

SOILS
How to Make a Good Mixture; Compost and How to Make It; Importance of Soil Sterilization

Removing an offset from a mature plant with a sharp knife. Offset may be rooted and potted later. If not removed now, it will become a crown later and may be separated by true division.

FERTILIZERS
Food in Liquid Form; Liquid Manure from Chemicals; Compensating for Food Deficiencies. Growing in Nutrient Solutions

POTS & POTTING
Porous vs. Impervious Pots. Art of Potting. Repotting Mature Plants; Saintpaulias in a "Strawberry Jar".

TROUBLE: AVOIDANCE AND CURE
Petiola Rot; Disease Organisms; Nematodes; Mildew; Mites; Selevation of the Soil; Mealybugs; Aphids or Plant Lice; Thrips; Springtails; Black Gnats or "Black Flies".

GENERAL CARE: GROWING FOR EXHIBITION
Outdoors or Indoors for Summer? Pruning; Single or Multiple Crowns? Grooming Plants for Exhibition

ADDING TO YOUR COLLECTION
Patented Plants

GREENHOUSE CULTURE
Potting Bench and Soil Containers; Propagation Space; Shading; Ventilation; Humidity.

PROPAGATION
Leaf Cuttings; Stem Cuttings of Offsets; Division; Seeds.

SPECIES AND VARIETIES OF SAINTPAULIA
Classification by Group; Beginner's Dozen; Similar and Synonymous Varieties; Fifty-two for Collectors; Notes on Additional Varieties; Explanation of Technical Terms; Pronouncing Guide etc.

AFRICAN VIOLETS IN A STRAWBERRY JAR four months after planting. At the top: Blue Boy, with Double Blue Boy barely visible at left. Center: left, Red-head Supreme; above hand, Lady Geneva; variegated leaf, My Lady Sue. Lower Right, Ruffles.

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African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Alma Wright, Editor
Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn.

Mary Parker, Assistant Editor
Harrill Hills, Knoxville 18, Tenn.

Evan Roberts, Research Editor
355 N. Harrison St., E. Lansing, Mich.

Floyd L. Johnson, Advertising Mgr.
79 West Gibson St., Canandaigua, N. Y.

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 West 3rd, Perry, Iowa.

Neil C. Miller, Mgr. Veterans Affairs
Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J.

Contributing Editors - Boyce Edens,
Regina Gottshall H. G. Harvey

News Reporters - Harriet F. Lawton
Emily Hodan Daisy Jones
Warren Gottshall Phyllis Ferrall
Martha Mears Ruth Dahnke
Florence Foltz Lauretta L. Littig

Homing Pigeon Dept.:
Helen Pochurek, News Editor
14425 McCracken Rd., Cleveland, Ohio

Gladys Canner, Membership Mgr.
Route 1, Creek Rd., Herkimer, N. Y.

OFFICERS

Mrs. Arthur Radtke President
3334 Orion St.
Cincinnati 13, Ohio

Mr. Floyd L. Johnson, 1st Vice-Pres.
79 West Gibson Street
Canandaigua, N. Y.

Mrs. C. H. Harris, 2nd Vice-Pres.
757 Athens Boulevard
Los Angeles 44, California

Mr. Neil C. Miller, Rec. Sec'ty.
Layton's Lake
Penns Grove, N. J.

Mrs. W. P. Dahnke, Corres. Sec'ty.
5611 Newton Road, Route 2
Merriam, Kansas

Mrs. Earl Mutchner, Membership Sec.
606 Richmond Ave.
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Mr. Boyce M. Edens, Treas.
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Presenting

● **BRUSSELS SPROUTS** -
Every collector will want this plant, regarded as the most unusual of African Violets by visitors at the N.A.V.C. in Dayton. The double flowers are leafy in texture, deeply serrated and varying from greenish-white to medium blue in color. This is the "Parrot Tulip" of the Saintpaulia family. Limited supply on first introduction. $2.50

● **APOLLO** - Handsome light blue flowers are borne on sturdy stems. The semi-double blooms resemble singles but have a small rosette of petals surrounding the yellow eye. Most important, the flowers do not drop. $2.50

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● **PETITE** - Outstanding light blue double with clusters of small perfectly formed blooms. Red coloration on underside of leaves adds particular distinction. $2.00

● **TEAR DROP** - A dainty variety with small semi-double baby blue blooms. Flowering is profuse and well grown plants are a mass of bloom. $2.50

● **STANDARD FRINGETTES** - The ever popular Fringettes are still available in the lovely selection of colors. Prices $1.50 and $2.00
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For complete descriptions of our entire stock, write for free catalogue. All plants sent parcel post. Add 10c per plant mailing for orders under $5.00. Special Delivery add 25c. Shipments made to Mid-November. Please send money order or check with all orders.

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LADY CONSTANCE—Unequalled for sheer beauty. Huge deep royal purple blooms on thick heavy foliage.

GENEVA RAINBOW—A real burgundy red with sparkling white contrasting border. Lovely companion to Lady Geneva.

SNOW PRINCE—Best pure white.

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GEORGIA BELLE—A really delightful big two-toned orchid lavender. True spoon. **Each $2.50**

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

A recent letter from Mrs. Theodore Greer, 1822 Arapahoe St., Golden Colo., asks for some help in contacting interested African violet people in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Utah. Mrs. Greer is a Regional Councilor and wants to increase our membership in this area. Any help will be appreciated. Please drop her a card with suggestions and names you may have. Many thanks!

Hope that you have had a good "violet" summer.

Sincerely,

Alma Wright

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Change of address: Send your new address at least 30 days before the date of the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

Local Affiliated Societies

Many members have been inquiring about affiliation of Local Clubs with the National Society, and now the plans are all made. We hope you will approve.

To be eligible for such affiliation at least 25% of the Local Club's members must belong to the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

The Club's By-Laws must be approved by the Society.

The dues are $2.50 a year.

The benefits of affiliation are:

1. The Club is entitled to regular membership privileges -- one voting delegate at our Annual Meeting.
2. One magazine will be mailed to the club.
3. The Club's officers will be listed annually in our Member's Handbook.
4. Awards for the Club's African Violet Shows will be available when specifications made by the award committee are complied with.
5. Colored transparencies for program will be available -- Local Club to pay only postage.
6. Books from our library will be available -- Local Club to pay postage.

We are at present working to build up a library of books and of colored transparencies. In the transparencies we hope to have a number of different collections, each suitable for one program. We will have pictures of the new varieties as they are introduced.

These are the ways in which we thought we could be of benefit to you, and of course, as usual, we solicit suggestions. If you have any ideas send them along.

Your editor has done her very best to include in this issue of the magazine all the information of the various meetings at our convention. She has met with great difficulty in obtaining copies of the talks of some of our speakers. She wants you to know that if a talk is missing it is not her fault -- she tried hard to get it. At this time we are of the opinion that it would be well to have recordings made of all meetings at future conventions. We believe the cost would be justified in giving you a full report.

Until December —

Sincerely,

Myrtle Radtke

GREEN BUT NOT GROWING

The Evening Star, Washington, D. C.

(Reprinted with permission)

Vacation-bound neighbors are very conscientious about leaving something for us to remember them by. Sometimes it is a cat whose little way of sharpening his claws on the furniture is not mentioned at the time of transfer. Or it may be a man-eating pekingese, "so small you'd never know he was there"—except for his teeth in your ankle. More often than not, however, these mementoes take the form of much-loved plants with mile-long memoranda as to their care. More African violets needing all but intravenous feedings and psychiatry, more depressed ivy, moribund hydrangeas and listless petunias are being pressed into unwilling hands these days than it is good to think about.

Plants, like all other living things, pine in the absence of familiar faces. Caretakers, with their front-room more like a greenhouse every day, if they have been cordial to their neighbors, have several courses open. Some conscientious souls nail the instruction list to the front door, refuse all week-end invitations and go about endlessly among their charges with the teapot serving as watering-can and fork for hoe. Other reluctant horticulturists of the type who never miss an opportunity to kick a blade of grass set about cold-bloodedly to kill the plants with kindness, watering them so fiercely that the roots rot forthwith. When the owners return the damp soil is exhibited as evidence of oversolicitude. A third means is to set all the unwanted greenery on the window sill and trust to wind and weather. Followers of this school of thought find the plants alternately drowned and parched and generally have to replace the whole gallery with 11th-hour purchases from a nearby florist.

Most people who have been through it start in early spring to weed out from their acquaintanceship all lovers of green and growing things bent on making their apartments into unreasonable facsimiles of parks.

WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT OUR

AFRICAN VIOLET DISPLAY

YOU WILL SEE THOUSANDS OF PLANTS IN BLOOM EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR. WHEN YOU ENTER YOU WILL EXCLAIM, AS ALL OUR VISITORS HAVE — "I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!"

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A view of our new display house

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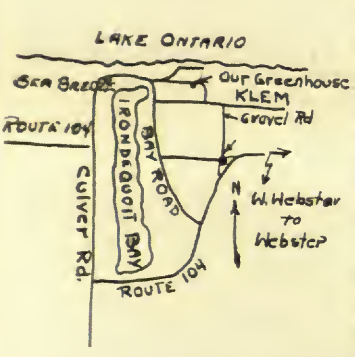

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The Judging School Committee Reports

Ruth Carey, Chairman

The Judging School Committee is very happy to report 136 Certificates issued to members of the Society that took the examination for the qualifying of judges at the Dayton Meeting. We trust that all those taking the examination have by this time received their papers and certificates. We held up sending your papers until the seal which the Society adopted at the Dayton meeting could be made and used on your certificates. We hope this will compensate your long wait.

Any group desiring a judging school should contact the Judging School chairman for details which her committee has worked out.

There were some questions asked in the examination that seemed to be confusing, which we would like to clarify. In question one, about the scale of points, the condition there means a plant that is perfect culturally, (no diseases, no insects, no damaged foliage). A total of 20 points can be given if the plant measures up to these qualifications. But if there are any of these conditions existing, then you will take off points according to the evidence.

Then in question seven, where you were asked to give the definition for condition, that means the physical growth at the time the entry is judged, it can be in good condition or poor condition. See the definition, under definition of terms in your "Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors". We tried to explain as many answers as possible, that were not correct on your papers. Please check in your Members Handbook so you will clear up any incorrect answers, also familiarize yourself with the full contents of the Members Handbook. We could only touch on duties of committees, schedules, show plants and many other points which limited time made it impossible to do, so for your benefit, study all phases.

It has been a pleasure to work on this committee, each one of us have learned along with you, and if there are any questions you would like the committee to help you with, we will be most willing to assist in any way possible.

THE SELECT VIOLET HOUSE

MARY MEEDS

BOX 1444 YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

"YELLOW BROWN GIRL"

THIS VARIETY WILL BE READY TO SHIP AFTER OCTOBER 1ST

Yellow Brown Girl has a yellow brownish colored crinkled cup shaped flower. Nice regular girl foliage. This is the only variety of African violet that we know of that has any yellow.

You hobbyists will like this one and if you are hybridizing we can't see how you can afford not to add it to your collection as this variety will produce you some unusual seedlings.

LIMITED SUPPLY SOLD THIS FALL.

ORDERS WILL BE FILLED IN ROTATION AS RECEIVED.

Undivided plants in bloom or about ready to bloom out of 2¼ inch pots $5.00 each, shipped PARCEL POST SPECIAL DELIVERY.

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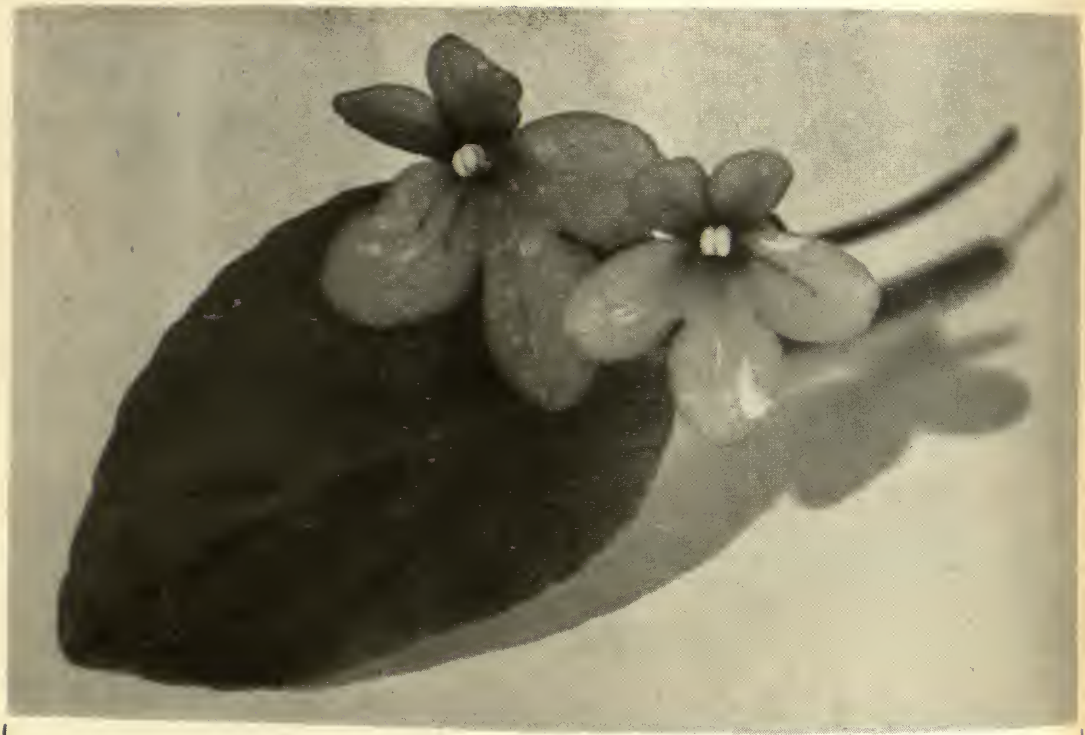

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SAINTPAULIA

LOVELY PASTEL BLUE OF DELICATE TEXTURE RAYED AND MOTTLED WITH WHITE

GRACEFUL SINGLE-CROWN HABIT

A MOST UNUSUAL INNOVATION IN THE AFRICAN VIOLET FIELD

NOW BOOKING ORDERS FOR OCTOBER 1ST SHIPMENT $2.25

RUSSWARD

JONESBORO ARKANSAS

Leaf Rot of African Violets

Evan Roberts, Mich.

Leaf rot, Gray-mold Blight, Blossom Blight, and Botrytis Leaf Blight are names given to diseased conditions of African Violet plants that have become infected with a fungus known as Botrytis cinera Pers.

The occurrence of Botrytis cinera Pers. on Saintpaulia ionatha Wedl. was first reported in 1936 by Dr. Otto A Reinking. It was later recorded in detail by G. E. Beck and Dr. J. R. Vaughn (1949) in Phytopathology. This organism has also been noticed on Sinningia (gloxinia) which is related to the African Violet. Chrysanthemum, poinsettias, roses and many other plants are included in the list of host plants.

Usually the disease originates on the leaf stems where they are near the pot rim. However, the infection seems to occur at most any region on the plant. Generally the first symptom is a tiny watery region which may expand and cover a large area. The diseased part gets brown and later black as it ages. When the fungus attacks the flower it seems to start in the throat of the corolla. Its symptoms are a water-soaked appearance of the petals and a premature fading. Under favorable conditions of low light intensity, high humidity and poor ventilation the fungus produces spores on the diseased tissue. Either spores or other parts of the fungus may then drop on healthy leaves and produce a new infection. When leaves are in direct contact with each other, conditions favor the spread from leaf to leaf. This Botrytis may attack many varieties of African Violets. Those having been reported are: Pink Beauty, White Lady, Blue Boy, Blue Girl and Plum.

Control ..... Proper spacing which allows good air circulation and keeps plants from touching each other is one of the best ways to control this disease. Infected parts should be removed from the plants to prevent re-infection from occuring from this possible source. All old flowers and broken leaves should be removed from the vicinity of the plant.

Sterilized potting soil should be used for potting. If leaf cuttings are made they should be placed in a sterilized medium. When plants are handled care should be taken not to break or injure parts. When areas are exposed by injury or by breaking (when dividing etc.) or through removal of diseased areas, dusting with a mixture of ½ Fermate and ½ dusting sulfur has been recommended. Growers should use this mixture on a small scale with caution. Injury can result from the improper use of certain chemical fungicides.

The use of plastic or glazed pots (preferably those with drainage holes in the bottom are recommended.)

NEW PRICE LIST READY

Covering 178 varieties, of African violets which are now available. We ship a minimum 1 carton either 25 - 3" or 25 - 2¼" in one or assorted varieties.

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We cordially invite you to visit our Greenhouses at any time.

TWO PIECE PLANTERS

Control Watering of Your African violets.

No. 8 Oval 3x4x4 at $1.50
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Terra Cotta and Stone Grey

See Article and Pictures, Page 17, September 1950 Magazine.

F. O. B.

TOPPING HILL CRAFT

Rush, N. Y.

The ANNUAL STRUGGLE

By the Editor

Photos by Myrtle Harlan and Eleanor Meyer.

Isn't it wonderful what a little flower can do? There we were at the Dayton Biltmore Hotel, Dayton, Ohio four hundred strong for the purpose of gathering wisdom on our favorite houseplant. With twenty four States and Canada well represented, many old friends were joyously greeting each other and new friendships were being made a mile a minute!

So we start off Thursday morning with school days again . . . with "School Marm" Ruth Carey holding forth in a most efficient manner on the fine points of JEDGING saintpaulias. Assistant "School Marm" Eva Rule was near by. Come to think of it didn't they do a neat plant switch just before the plant identification exam? (Then the maps and diagrams were out of date.) Students Beatrice Fortney (see I have shoes), Galion, Ohio, Inez Bradford, president of the Oak Ridge Tennessee Club, Mrs. John Hall, Cleveland, Mary Sweeney, Nomination Committee Chairman, Xenia, Ohio, Mrs. Leslie Perry, Philadelphia and Mrs. Howard Morris, Drexel Hills, Pennsylvania were a listnin' and a learnin' as were Mrs. C. E. Huber, Tiffin, and Solange Slivka, Fayette, Ohio, Mrs. M. J. Hester, Florence, Alabama, Helen Coleman (who won a show award her first try) Marion, Indiana, Zuelma Simpson, Greenville, Tennessee, Catherine Miller, Harrisburg, and Mrs. W. B. Renshaw, E. McKeesport, Pennsylvania and umpteen other "school boys and girls" that morning.

Saw Dr. Freeman Weiss, Washington, D. C., Annette Hoffman (Hoffmann's Hobby House) and Mrs. H. W. Martin of Omaha, Nebraska . . . Mrs. Martin is president of the Omaha club, Lois Minehan, Binghamton, New York and Vera Osterhaut, Hastings, Nebraska a mindin' their p's and q's as they trip down the line to identify the plants in the exam -- Judging School of course!

This years meeting brought together many good "old friends" made at previous conventions. Among them was the winner of "The Award" on Love Birds at the Philadelphia Meeting last year - Florence Foltz of Lewiston (who 'tis said walked on air and saw stars in the sky that day), and Mrs. Paul Dissinger, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, a violet pioneer who has introduced some nice saintpaulias, Mildred Wilson, Martinsburg, W. Virginia, Ruth Dahnke, vice-president 1952, president of the Kansas City Society and a real enthusiast. Others were Nellie McBride, Pigeon friend from Springfield, Missouri, Cammy Conant and Emily Hodan, Cleveland, Ohio, Nellie Fry, Springfield, Iva Woods, New Wilmington,

and Ruth Rhoda, Oley, Pennsylvania, and Anna Layson, Maysville, Kentucky, quiet and friendly Chairman of the Awards Committee. There was no need to ask if Floyd Johnson was there . . . "Mr. President" for 1952 was everywhere talking to everyone as was our popular commander-in-chief sweet Myrtle Radtke, who is loved by all.

Illinois turned out with a bang -- twenty six members strong!! Wish the space permitted every name . . . but that would be a real big story all by itself. To mention but a few there was Mrs. E. H. Blatter, Elmhurst, Eunice Livingstone, president of the Aurora Society and a fine worker they say, Ruby Jones, Woodstock and from Rockford, Ruth Carlson, Mrs. Allen Rice and Margaret Cedarvale, president of the club there. Two of Elgins able representatives were Constance McBride and Bee Wills, the moving spirit behind two Elgin clubs already. Then Hazel Hurley, president of the Downers Grove Society, Ada Magill, the stately District Councilor from Aurora, also Mrs. Lawrence Davis and Mrs. R. J. Pulver (our first meeting in a drugstore) and Grace Rowe.

Certainly VIOLET conscious these days is the "Windy City." Very delightful at long last to meet Mary Fowkes, president of the Chicago African Violet Society, Mabel Bornemeir, president of the Rose 'Onna Club and Rose Trendler, president of the Elite Club. All three groups had their leaders in Dayton . . . a most gratifying fact and one to be proud of. Nice going Chicago! You will want to know the other Chicago ladies there too - Dorothy Suntog (who can use a camera they say), Bida Robbins, Ann Wideberg, Erna Petrick the lady who grew "them" in strawberry jars, Elnora Kettel, Mary Mayer, Clare Cooper and Bess Greeley (see that L?) . . . all wonderful African violet people. We hope to get to know them all better next spring when the Annual Meeting convenes in Chicago, April 24, 25 and 26 at the Hotel Sherman.

Our Hostess State Ohio was there en masse! So many fine members were on hand to proudly represent their state only a few of this good number can be mentioned. Starting off with Theresa Moeller, president of the Queen City Society and a faithful worker at the registration desk, Mrs. Jim Asmonn, Mrs. Hugh Gregg and Mrs. A. B. Cooper, Cincinnati was there and did it's self proud. A few other Ohioans were Mrs. N. S. Ireland, Wilmington, Mrs. Harry Henton, Canfield, Mrs. Edna Holtz, Tiffin, Mrs. Ernest Caldwell, Columbus and Mrs. Hubert Robinson, Granville. Last a special thank you to Bess Hardy for the radio publicity she so generously arranged with a goodly number of members participating.

Michigan comes into the picture now with Evan Roberts, (Bronze Medal Award for 1951), Michigan State College, leading the parade. Evan gave us a fine look into the past of our beloved saintpaulias at the Banquet Meeting that was really news to us. Also from E. Lansing was Lorna Anderson, a real helper with Magazine stories. From Battle Creek was Phyllis Ferrall, Regional Councilor who presided so graciously at the luncheon meeting Friday, attractive Mazie Johnson, Pontiac, remembered from way back Cincinnati 1949 and Mabel Coleman of Royal Oaks - a most pleasant lady. Then Detroit had Dorothy Reaume who can "take care of herself in any crowd," Jennie Spoutz vivacious as ever, and West Side Greenhouses Marie Marks whose lovely plants were missed this year. For a long time we have wanted to meet Rosa Peters . . . this year our want was answered. Rosa was on hand for the Dayton festivities. Didn't those plants have beautiful foliage?

There was no dearth of men at this meeting. A few of the active participants who contributed so much to making this a most successful get-to-gether were Paul Rockelman (Fischer's Greenhouses) Linwood, New Jersey, who 'tis said all the members fell in love with, the Rev. Mr. Dale Ulery and Paul Slough (Ulery's Greenhouses) Springfield, Ohio . . . these two gentlemen really have done things with saintpaulias . . . Dr. Floyd Smith, Beltsville, Maryland, Max Nagler (Fair Oaks Gardens) Marietta, Georgia, "our" Richard Stinson, holder of the Society's scholarship at Ohio State and jolly Dwight Smith of Cincinnati, Ohio. Treasurer Boyce Edens of Atlanta was there in the niftiest tan sport coat - an enthusiastic saintpaulian and a leader . . . without Mr. Edens to lean on where would we be today? Over from Chicago was Bob Davis (Popular Gardening) who was liked by everyone. See you in Chicago Bob!

Our Canadian Cousins are really (should be a capital R) making themselves felt in the African violet world. Joan Copeland (Copeland's Violet House), busy Board member and her husband Frank were there as were Mrs. W. L. Hardy and Mrs. L. H. Davies who are doing some fine work in spreading good cheer with saintpaulias. Two little ladies Mrs. J. W. Scott and Mrs. M. J. Joyce from Montreal were pleasant to know and Miss Marjory Pick and Mrs. D. O. Marshall as well as many more welcome members from Canada were on hand to make the meeting the wonderful experience that it was!

To support the Badger State rolls - and a wonderful group it was too - was Viola Roets (in a smart blue dress at breakfast Friday morning), Myrtle Harlan and Eleanor Meyer, two of the picture takingest ladies you ever did see . . . that is of course if you did see after all those flash bulbs a snappin' and a poppin' (see pages 14 and 15 for a peek at some of the results) and Betty Rosenak a swell little gal that is velocity plus! Next we saw Evelyn Foster, Emmy Hinton, Mrs. Fred Kutschenreuter, Corrine Bovey who is a talented corsage maker and Elsa Kryne, a keen violet grower. It was a real thrill to meet these earnest violet folk.

Photos on pages 17 and 19 by the Editor.

These Huntington members just naturally come to our meetings it seems and it is really fine to have them too. Greetings to Director (this is the old mullarky . . . remember saying this in Cincinnati in 1949 Mary?) Greetings too, to Ethel Crotty and her mother Mrs. H. W. Crowder and Charlotte Hughes who grows those out of this world African violets in her "play house." Hope to see you all in Chicago . . . couldn't do without you!

From way out Golden, Colorado way came Mrs. Theo Greer and from Iowa two of the Society's stalwarts, Ferne Kellar or first president, and Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor for the Magazine - and doin' a fine job too! From New York, Henry Ten Haugen who went violet touring before the meeting, Mrs. Elroy Coniber, Batavia and a proud owner of a fine saintpaulia collection and Mr. F. E. Wentnick of Salisbury Mills who is most active in African violet circles.

Up from Atlanta was Dalene - Mrs. G. E. Rhodes, the energetic lady who did so much in the early days to get saintpaulia people together, from Chattanooga, Tennessee Mrs. Horace Humphreys, a real power house in the club there and "old timer" Jean Crowe. How wonderful to have Jean with us again . . . seems like old times! Did you see that conversation Helen Pochurek (wasn't that a lovely double . . .) was having with Mary Blackburn who was trying to get a word in edgewise and in another group "Under the Door" Priscilla Landaker talking at top speed to a group of Cincinnati friends about . . . ?? Her brown eyes laughing Anne Tinari (Tinari Floral Gardens) was enthusiasm itself. It is always a treat to meet her - more power to you Anne! The "movingist lady" in all Ohio, Mabel Paddock was there, also charming as ever, Mrs. C. R. Ballard, Montgomery, Alabama and . . . though she kept telling everyone she had lost her voice Mrs. L. A. Potruff was talking and talking . . . she never gave up!

From Richmond in Old Virginia was Margaret Ross, president of the Richmond Society and easy to look at Helen Phillips. Now as at all African Violet Society meetings rooms were scarce . . . do you suppose that Ruth Yoars (Yoars Houseplant Nursery) was charged any more for the main dining room? How about it Ruth? BIG rooms must be expensive! A strolling member was heard to say Friday morning as she looked in on the Symposium, "Isn't Henry Peterson (J. A. Peterson & Sons) nice? Every time I look in the room he is talking too." Mrs. T. H. Claimer and Mrs. R. F. Gray took a bow for Asheille, N. Carolina and from S. Carolina, Mrs. Percy Dixon of West Columbia took the honors for her home state. Bright little Martha Mears can certainly hold her own with those Streptocarpus . . . loveliest things ever! So very glad you were so generous Martha as it was a real treat to get a "look see" at what you have done.

Many a congenial group met for each meal to enjoy the food and good company of fellow members as well as the informative program. Picture together Friday evening at the Banquet Meeting a table with Mesdames Mabel Bode, David Ross, Tom Baysore, Kenneth Roser, Myrtle Wagner, Harold Sweeney plus a few more violet friends and you have all the ingredients for a perfect party.

Adding to the pleasantness of the Convention was several husband and wife teams. Big and amicable Montague Free, "The Home Garden," was just the dignified, friendly kind of man you would want him to be and Mrs. Free a gracious lady. It was good to meet them again and to have "Monty" with us on the program. Our Program Chairman (Supreme variety) was H. G. Harvey who drove up from Atlanta with Mrs. Harvey to direct our excellent program. Back from Holland, Director Bill and Alice Carter flew in from Tewkesbury, Massachusetts in time for everything. It was swell to see them both! Some of the other couples were Mr. and Mrs. Banks McDowell, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Mr. and Mrs. John Gent (Gent's Greenhouses) Webster, New York, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Keithey, Kansas City, Missouri, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Nichols, Madison and Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Turner, Knoxville, Tennessee, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Slocumb, Rochester and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lyke, East Bethany, New York. It looked like a good time for Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Childs who were having dinner with Alice Wray Taylor, Director-elect for 1952, Mary Meeds (Select Violet House) and R. G. Baxter (Baxter's Greenhouses) of Youngstown, Ohio. A lively young couple was Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Resser, Geneso, Illinois and very interested fans were Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Herman (The Violet Villa) Kansas City. Though temporarily roomless Secretary Neil Miller and neat little Mary Miller carried on their part of the Society's responsibilities in the best tradition . . . Board meeting and all before they were settled and we were glad to have with us Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Wendell, Maquoketa (you pronounce it not me . . .) Iowa.

Memories of the Dayton Meeting bring to mind carnations, orchids, candle-light and fine workers by the score. The Dayton and Richmond Societies, co-hosts for the Convention, covered themselves with glory and to them go our profound thanks. To commend but a few though the many are not forgotten - who so distinguished themselves

. . . leading off was Nelle Berst the efficient and never ruffled general chairman who was so patient with us all and her genial co-chairman Mary Mutchner, the ingenious souvenir lady Lucille Booher who made us happy with the many useful little gifts, Mrs. Elmer Loomis for "The Banquet," Mrs. George Gross for the lovely decorations, Mrs. K. M. Kester for the publicity and the other committee chairman Mrs. J. R. Wampler, Mrs. Ralph Miller, Mrs. Walter Boughton, Mrs. O. P. Lyons, Mrs. Claude Ryder and Mrs. G. D. Wolf. For the exhibit we enjoyed looking at over and over again a special thank you to Mrs. Donald Bates and Mrs. Ralph Englebert.

Saturday afternoon and the Convention's much regretted close . . . our three days in Dayton had just flown away . . Long before everyone was ready to stop taking that last look at some special African violet or to enjoy another "little" visit with this or that good friend . . . it was time to leave for home!

Two views of the Fischer exhibit.

THE SHOW

Ruth Dahnke, Kans.

The hybridizers and commercial growers have been very busy people this past year and the result was a thrill to all who attended the 1951 Convention of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. in Dayton, Ohio. The need for more pinks and whites has been recognized as well as consideration for both foliage and flower.

If you will come along we will go back to the show through memory -- but do forgive me for the ones I missed! With so many plants it took several trips back to the exhibit room and even then my notes were not complete.

The first section was seedlings entered by the commercial growers. First place went to Mrs. Joan Copeland of Cooksville, Ontario, Canada for her entry Canadian Shadows. The foliage was rather light green with a light blue flower and white star across the blossom. Second place went to Tinari's of Bethayres, Pennsylvania. Their entry was Navy Bouquet; very double flowers with large petals of navy blue. The plant was well shaped with red reverse to the leaves. (How about an Air Force Blue, Anne?) Third place also went to Tinari's for Tinari's Pink Luster. Blue Eyes was one of the parent plants and it is like Blue Eyes but has a luster pink flower.

In the next section first place went to Fischers of Atlantic City, New Jersey, for a light blue double that had the largest double flowers we have seen to date. It is called Apollo. The flowers are semi-double and bloom in clusters. We found no second place ribbon, but third again went to Fischers for their wine colored double. The flower was not as large as the one described previously -- still it was a large flower.

In the next section first place went to Helen Pochurek of Cleveland, Ohio. Helen's entry was a white double. The foliage was good too, very much like the foliage of Snow Prince but more serrated. The pure white flowers bloomed in clusters. Second place went to Joan Copeland for her Red Lady Geneva. The plant is like Lady Geneva except the flowers are wine colored with a white edge -- and it is being catalogued as Geneva Rainbow.

John Gent of Webster, N. Y. entered a lovely Marine Amazon. I counted 25 open flowers, unusual for an Amazon.

J. A. Petersons & Son entered both Dark Norseman and Light Norseman variations of the beloved Norseman. The pale Norseman was a new shade in blue for saintpaulias. Shown also was a Red Mentor Boy, and it was as lovely as Mentor Boy in blue.

Rosa Peters of Grand Rapids, Michigan won the Sweepstakes ribbon for her collection. Rosa grows her plants in the basement with fluorescent lights, the walls painted white. The foliage was deep olive green and those of girl type foliage had lime green spots rather than the usual white or cream spot. We may have missed some of them but here goes -- Maple leaf has girl type foliage with large purple flowers. Floret had large leaves with dark blue flowers

also girl foliage. Purple Crest had large girl foliage and very red on the reverse of leaf. The flower was purple. Lyric has very curled, girl type foliage with big leaves. (I was so impressed by the foliage, I forgot the color of the flower.) Trinket dark foliage with the lime spot not as large as some of the others but the leaves were pointed. The flowers were wine. This plant has very upright growth. Bleeding Heart, again girl type but with a distinct red line between the olive green and lime green spot. An unnamed seedling had very dark foliage with a deep blue flower. The following are described by the Fischers color chart. Blue Torch, blue violet No. 2 grows upright with girl foliage; Sceptor, blue violet No. 1, large pointed leaf, girl type foliage; Lily Pad is red violet No. 1 rather like Gorgeous foliage, red underneath and a very large plant; Halo has a flower the color of Mentor Boy; Misstress has very curly leaves and a large lime green spot; Damsel is blue violet No. 2, a compact plant with a lot of lime green. Mrs. Peters has adopted Rose' Onnas as the series name for her introductions.

Now to move on to the next section. This was to have been seedlings but there were also sports or mutations in the group. First place went to Mrs. Jerry Coleman of Marion, Indiana. The plant had medium green leaves and an orchid flower. The two top petals were darker and shaded into the lower petals slightly. Second place was awarded to Mrs. W. S. Boughton of Vandalia, Ohio for a plant with light blue flowers and foliage rather the shape of Ruffles but shiny and quilted with red on the reverse of the leaf. Mrs. Z. C. Layson of Maysville, Kentucky took the third place.

Above, Paul Slough and two views of the Ulery exhibit.

Below, Gorgeous Blue Wonder, Dark Beauty and Twinkle Girl.

In the next section Mrs. Everett of New Kensington, Pa., took first place with a very unusual plant. The leaf was rather like Ionantha but the edge of the leaf turned up like a lily pad. The flowers were an odd combination of green and purple, double. Mrs. Martha Mears of Anderson, Indiana entered several plants, Dorothy D. a large girl type plant with bright red wine flowers; Hoosier Maid has a dark purple flower with girl type foliage with the spot more red than white; Peter Pan was deep red violet, round blossoms, girl type foliage that grew very flat; Pied Piper had upright growth habit with bi-color red violet flowers. Mrs. R. L. Browning of Flemingsburg, Ky., entered a plant with light green foliage and flowers of a lovely shade of soft pink. Mrs. Jerry Coleman of Marion, Indiana entered a plant with dark green foliage and flowers two shades of orchid.

In the Novel Planting Class the requirements drew on artistic as well as horticulture. First place went to Mary Sweeney of Xenia, Ohio. The entry was a natural planting, a tray filled with green moss, small ferns and in the background a plant that very much resembled a palm tree. African violets were used as the focal point. It was certainly African violets in their natural setting. Second place went to Mrs. K. M. Kester of Dayton, Ohio. Mrs. Kester had also used green moss in her planting but used a hollow log with vines and small plants as a setting for the African violets. The third entry was by Mrs. Joe Herman of Kansas City, Missouri. It was a huge bubble bowl filled with small plants of Violet Villa Pixies (leprechauns if you are Irish) napping in the shade of the African violets.

First place in antique containers went to Mrs. O. P. Lyons of Dayton, Ohio. The container was a pewter tea pot with Pixies sitting on the lid of the tea pot and as accessories to the African violets planted in the tea pot.

Plantings for Coffee Table was awarded for a pair of ceramic figurines with long skirts. The African violet planting was used as a bustle corsage. (Sorry but I could find no name.)

First place for the largest plant in the show went to Mrs. Velma Loomis. The plant looked very much like Bi-Color.

In the next class Mrs. Layson took first prize for a plant that looked like a true minature. It was a minature both in leaf and flower.

Now we begin the commercial exhibits not in competition. The first one was Ulery's of Springfield, Ohio. Here we always get a peep into the future. By Mr. Ulery's request may I say Ulery's are strictly wholesalers and sell only to commercial dealers so if you are not actually commercial please wait for these plants from your retail dealers rather than write to Ulery's. So many letters merely mean more correspondence when their business is with commercial people. They will be circulated just as soon as supply is ready. Now for some descriptions . . . . Dark Beauty is a white double with dark blue center and slightly into the flower. Sailors Delight has a light blue double flower with girl type foliage. Sea girl is the same with medium blue double flowers. Double Orchid Girl is well described in the name (which makes us all happy) and a very nice double. Orchid

Left, view from the Special Arrangements, below from the Commercial Exhibit and Gesneria Exhibit.

Rosa Peters

Treasure has a white flower with an orchid edge and medium green foliage. Twinkle Girl has a white flower with an orchid blue edge and the usual white spot on the leaf characteristic of girl type foliage, very red on the reverse of leaf with flowers between orchid and lavender. Snow Prince has been on the market for several months but for those of you who do not know it, the plant has very substantial foliage that does not curl. The leaf is pointed and heavy. The pure white flower is round like the Neptune flower. Purity is a pure gleaming white double with medium green foliage. With this introduction we feel it won't be too long, before we get the double pink, yellow and maybe even a double yellow. That is of course a large order but from the show nothing seems impossible with saintpaulias. Lavender Girl is also well named. Orchid Sunset has large double wine colored flowers. Blue Beauty has Snow Prince foliage with a periwinkle blue flower that has a lighter shade star. Orchid Velvet has large light wine flowers. Blue Heiress has a very large dark blue flower with much the same shade as du Pont No. 1, some with six petals. This plant has girl foliage that certainly suggests du Pont Girl No. 1. Pink Delight has dark green foliage with a very red reverse to the leaf. The flower is a soft light pink. The foliage on Pink Delight is the same as Innocence (last year referred to as Ulery's White. We are still waiting for the release). Pink Wonder again has the same foliage but the flower is a brilliant pink. Rose Marie again has the same foliage but the flower is darker and rose colored. Pansy has a plain leaf with Bi-Color blossom. The two top petals are wine colored, the other three pale orchid but the wine color tips each of the orchid petals. Purple Dawn is quilted, dark red reverse to the dark green foliage and a purple flower. Paul Slough was there to answer questions.

Next is the Peterson exhibit. Henry Peterson brought well established varieties as well as the new. We are grateful to Henry for the opportunity to identify correctly so many of the good varieties so often misnamed or carrying several names. Too often beginners follow veteran collectors who are after the new things only, and forget those collectors already have many of the established varieties and would not be without them. Some of these are Bi-Color, the two top petals deep wine red with the pale orchid bottom petals. The foliage is good and grows into a well shaped plant. Blue Warrior with the deep green pointed leaves very shiny and quilted. The flower is dark blue. Rose Purple with purple flowers and dark green foliage with quite red reverse to the leaves. Amethyst Amazon the same lavender-pink flowers of Amethyst but much larger and more rounded. The foliage is more round than heart shaped and heavy. Ison with dark quilted foliage and rather dark blue flowers. Just which is Blue Bird and which is Begonia Belle is still not quite clear to me but they both grow into exceptionally well shaped plants, with large leaves and medium blue flowers. For several years I have had one called Blue Bird and love its red reverse to the leaves and good large blooms. Every time I started to compare them something came up that kept me from really getting straight but I will yet. Of the newer varieties Henry showed Orchid Wonder with flowers of two shades of orchid, profuse bloomer. Blue Ohio Valley is light blue with rather dark shiny foliage. The leaves are large. This is one of the varieties originated by Mrs. Hughes. Three of the others are Miss West Virginia with reddish type flower and plain dark foliage; Mom's Girl has reddish flower and girl foliage; Painted Ballerina has reddish bi-color flower with girl foliage.

Cont. on page 64

Montague Free

A Horticulturist Looks at Saintpaulia

Florence Foltz, Penna.

There have been many well known speakers at our various National African Violet Society Conventions, but it is my humble opinion that none can claim the nationwide popularity of Mr. Montague Free, who is known, if I may use a local expression "all over the United States and part of Pennsylvania." Mr. Free, Staff Horticulturist of Home Garden Magazine, is the author of the book, "All About House Plants," and it was indeed an honor to have been chosen to "cover" his address. I only hope I will be able to do it justice.

It must have taken a great deal of courage to stand up before so large a group . . . predominantly women . . . and express views contrary to the opinions of the majority, but it gave me a new perspective which I shall try to pass along.

In opening his address, Mr. Free remarked that his acquaintance with saintpaulias was made about 50 years ago when he observed them growing in the greenhouses of the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens in England. His present interest is a result of his having been asked, several years ago, to speak at one of our conventions. At that time he declined because he felt he was not an expert on their culture, but the invitation provided the incentive for two years of intensive study which resulted in his writing a book on saintpaulias which is now in the hands of the publisher.

In his research, Mr. Free soon discovered . . . along with the rest of us . . . that there are too many names and many varieties that are so much alike that they do not warrant a distinctive name. He was quick to add that there is always room for good saintpaulias, especially those having floriferous quality, and ability to endure harsh conditions, and resistance to pests that can and undoubtedly will be bred into saintpaulias. He feels that ultimately the

name and variety situation will settle itself, but has great hopes that the Registration Committee can hurry things along. The desirability of test stations has been discussed, and, ideally, should be handled by State Agricultural Experiment Stations, but lack of funds prohibits that. Consequently, the job will be the task of private growers, and Mr. Free suggested that the varieties be divided into groups and assigned to growers in various parts of the country.

Some of the developments in African violet varieties are to be depreciated, or so it seems to Mr. Free. To use his words, "At the last convention, I was shown and was expected to admire a variety that was lacking both stamens and pistils. To me the contrast between the golden stamens and the flower color of the corolla is one of the most charming features of a saintpaulia flower. It reminds me when I was a young man the gals used to say that a kiss from a man without a mustache is like eating an egg without salt." A saintpaulia lacking its essential organs is also like an egg without salt.

He does not like the double varieties any better than he did last year and stated that he will NOT like them until we have a symmetrical blossom like a rose or camellia.

Having expressed two definite opinions at least slightly contrary to the average saintpaulia fan without having been assailed with a single rotten tomato (it was a little early in the season for them), Mr. Free decided to get rid of some more venom and take a poke at those who persist in calling saintpaulias just "violets." To use his words, "saintpaulias are not violets." They are not even closely related to them. They belong in different plant families widely separated in the scheme of plant classification. Plants belonging in the genus VIOLA have been known as violets for hundreds of years and it is quite unethical to transfer the name to an entirely different group of plants, which surely is important enough to own a name that is all its own. It also gives you an opportunity to call yourselves "saintpaulians." Aside from being unethical, it is confusing to call saintpaulias violets. For example, Mr. Free said, "Just think of the consternation of a saintpaulia fan who writes to the Question Box of the Home Garden asking, 'What is the best way to care for my violets' and is told in reply the cultural requirement of the sweet violet: to dig up rooted runners in spring, plant them out in rich soil such as provided in the vegetable garden, dig them

Photo by Kepler

Florence Foltz

up in the fall and plant them in a coldframe or in a greenhouse where the temperature can be maintained near 40 degrees!" Mr. Free also pointed out the futility of trying to produce a yellow violet by hybridizing saintpaulias with the yellow violets of our woods. He emphasized that it is not possible to cross plants which do not belong to the genus, and added, "The hopeful hybridist in this case stands as much chance of getting the yellow saintpaulia by these means as he does of combining strawberries and cream in one plant by crossing milkweed and strawberries."

During his investigations, Mr. Free noted that he found quite a lot of fanciful notions about the culture of saintpaulias. One of the oldest is that once saintpaulias are in place in the home, they should never under any circumstance be moved. This, he feels, is too absurd to warrant a comment.

And there was the lady who reported putting something or other in the water in which she proposed to start leaf cuttings, and within a few weeks every hair on the stalk developed into a root. This is not so. because hairs are outgrowths of the epidermal cells; roots are deep-seated in their origin. "I was very much interested in the symposium in the magazine on Black Flies to find that one lady reported that a solution of saltpeter, household ammonia, epsom salts and baking powder effectively disposed of these pests," commented the speaker. "It interested me, because it is a formula for a nutrient solution made up of chemicals which one can get from kitchen

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Left to right, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Harvey, Mrs. Yoars and Rev. Mr. Ulery.

Left to right, Mrs. Yoars, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Rockelman and Mrs. Radtke.

PRACTICAL METHODS OF CULTIVATION AND SHIPPING

Emily Hodan and Cameron Conant, Ohio

At the 1951 Convention, Mr. H. G. Harvey presided at the symposium on the above subject. Mr. Henry Peterson acted as master of ceremonies, with the Rev. Dale Ulery, Mrs. Ruth Yoars, and Mr. Paul Rockelmann participating. Mr. William Merkel was absent due to the illness of his wife.

Both Mr. Harvey and Mr. Peterson stressed the fact that "AFRICAN VIOLETS ARE BIG BUSINESS". How big, no one knows! The year 1946 was not only the start of the African Violet Society, but the start of African violets in big business. The commercial growers took over under chaotic conditions -- straightened out the confusion and developed methods of propagating. This Society is extremely proud of its commercial growers.

Mr. Peterson, chairman and first speaker, told us that in propagating African violets, we should always be on the lookout for something new. After a plant has been selected, the leaf should be chosen -- a medium-sized, firm leaf with a short petiole (½ to ¾ inches) will produce more crowns. By using the short petiole, there is less chance of the petiole growing and failing to produce baby plants. At Peterson's all petioles are cut on a slant; this makes all plantlets grow on one side of the cutting, the mother leaf can be removed, and the small plant grows more symmetrically. The Petersons propagate in four benches, 125 to 150 feet long. Mr. Peterson thinks boxes would be better, but, since they have the benches they are used. They use either vermiculite or sand as a propagating medium. Coarse vermiculite is used, and the cuttings are dipped in sulphur solution for the purpose of guaranteeing cleanliness in the cuttings. (A high concentration of sulphur accumulation on cuttings in garden vermiculite caused cuttings to burn here and there. Cuttings treated with sulphur solution did not seem to burn in either sand or coarse vermiculite.)

After the cuttings are started, they are potted in 2 1/4 inch pots, single or multi-crowns, as they come out of the benches. Multi-crown plants ship better than single

Left to right, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Rockelman and Mr. Peterson.

Left to right, Mrs. Yoars, Mr. Harvey, Rev. Mr. Ulery and Mr. Peterson.

crown. The soil mixture used by Peterson's is 50% garden loam, 25% peat moss and 25% sand. If live steam is used for sterilizing, the nitrate level is increased to such a degree that it is necessary to use superphosphate. After two or three weeks plants must be fertilized with a liquid fertilizer. Sodium selenate will not prevent or cure mealy bugs. Mr. Peterson thinks steam sterilization is best, but is unable to use it in his concrete benches; in these benches, methyl bromide, covered with Sisalcraft paper is used. Light conditions at Petersons' are equal to 1000 foot candles on a bright day. Their temperature averages 60°, but they hope to raise it to 65° next year.

The Petersons have not been too interested in raising seedlings, but have had a few mutants -- Red Mentor Boy and light and dark Norseman. They ship plants by railroad express, parcel post, air express and air freight. Their shipping cartons are standardized and hold 25 plants, in either 3 inch or 2 1/4 inch pots. In winter they have been using a double carton, with sawdust in the outside one. Mr. Peterson says all shipping is troublesome and asks that any damage claims be filed at the receiving end. If no satisfaction is received, then write to them.

Rev. Dale Ulery was the second speaker. Ulery's have been raising African violets since 1932. Their first plants were grown from seed imported from Germany. In those early days, there were many lavender hybrids. FRIEDA originated someplace near Dayton, and 1938 two hundred and fifty four inch pots were thrown away because they would not sell.

Rev. Ulery told us that there are two kinds of dealers -- the regular florist and the hobbyist, and that the regular florist does not want single crown plants. Commercial growers cannot grow the new varieties only, as older ones are desired also. Our speaker wonders when the end of new varieties will come. He has no idea how many varieties there now are.

A mature leaf in healthy condition will produce a good plant. Rev. Ulery says that, in propagating, the growers should use the method best suited to their own conditions. Ulery's cuttings are grown in flats or boxes in a mixture of peat, sand and vermiculite. They feed the cuttings and grow them in a high temperature and high humidity. Night temperatures can be as low as 58° or 60°, or lower, but these temperatures do not produce as quickly as a 65° temperature. Ulery's night temperature is 62° and their day temperature is 80° or above. This grower likes all the light possible, as long as it does not cause bleaching. A liquid fertilizer is used two or three times to start the plants growing. Rev. Ulery said that leaves can be potted in a pot and may be fed when in good growth; also that baby plants should not be disturbed when too small or many may be lost. They use parathion gas, as it eliminates most insect troubles. Parathion is not practical in small attached greenhouses.

Ulery's find the interest in new varieties very high, and see no end in sight. On the subject of mutations, Rev. Ulery feels that they, too, are limitless, since their BLUE GIRL is a mutation. Commercial growers are working for larger flowers with sturdy easily handled foliage.

He feels that the Railroad Express would be glad if no African violets were ever shipped, as they cause plenty of trouble. They find the Express Company willing to co-operate in making a claim, IF there has been unnecesary delay in transit; otherwise,

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What We Don't Know About African Violets and What We Are Doing About It

Richard F. Stinson
African Violet Society of America, Inc.
Research Fellow 1950-51

Dick began his talk by blowing a referee's whistle. He then explained that he had done this to remind his audience that everything he was about to discuss was "at the half", that he hoped to show a few trends in the saintpaulia research projects at the Ohio State University, but that these might not necessarily predict the "final score".

He briefly listed the projects being studied. Then he explained the following facts pertaining to all the show plants used in the test: All plants were propagated the first week in July and all tests were started about mid-September; the varieties used were selected as representing a cross section of commonly grown types and included Mentor Boy, Pink Girl, Redhead Girl, White Lady, and Amethyst Amazon; all plants were donated by Henry Peterson of Cincinnati, Ohio; the soil in all plots was tested regularly and fertilizer was applied according to these soil tests; the water used was warmed up to 70° F. prior to application to avoid ring spot on the foliage; all plants, unless otherwise specified, were exposed to light intensities of from 700 to 1200 foot-candles. The number of flowers on each plant were being counted weekly, and the diameters of each plant were being recorded monthly.

Mr. Stinson

He then discussed the experiments in greater detail.

The first experiment was a study of the effect of various light intensities upon flower bud initiation and development. It was divided into two phases - an observation study and an anatomical study. He then defined a foot-candle of light. Seven cloth enclosed boxes with the following maximum light intensities were used in this test: 100 fc., 300 fc., 500 fc., 1100 fc., 1300 fc. The first plot to flower was the 1100 fc. plot in late December; the 900 fc. plot flowered in Mid March; while the 700 fc. and 1300 fc. plots flowered in late April. Slides of representative plant of each variety from each treatment were then shown. It was observed that about 1000 fc. seemed to give the best results. For commercial growers a "Weston" light meter, model 603, Weston Electric Instrument Corporation, Newark, New Jersey, was suggested as a very satisfactory device to aid in maintaining proper light conditions in the greenhouse. The following suggestions were made for midwestern amateur growers of saintpaulias: During April, May, June, and July the equivalent of one layer of muslin cloth should be satisfactory; from four to two layers of cheese cloth should be used in August, September, and October; one layer of cheese cloth is about right for November, December, and January; and from two to

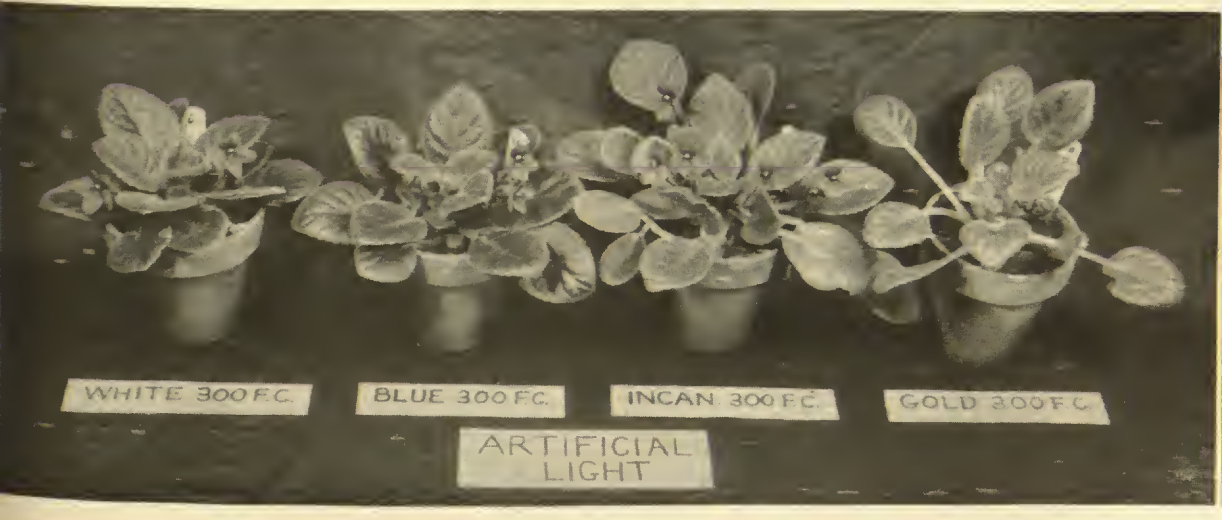
Mentor Boy as grown at different light intensity.

four layers of cheese cloth should be used in February and March. These recommendations were based upon a south window exposed to full sunlight all day.

The anatomical phase of this problem involved taking bud samples from the leaf axils of plants in the various plots at weekly intervals. These buds are now being sectioned, stained, and studied with a micrscope in order that the course of their development may be determined.

The second experiment was a study of the various temperatures upon growth and flowering of this plant. Three plastic enclosed boxes were used in this experiment. One was exposed to normal greenhouse temperatures (60° F. at night) and the remaining two boxes were equipped with heating cables and automatic ventilators to maintain even temperatures of 70° F. and of 80° F. The 80° F. plot began to flower in mid-February; the 70° F. plot, the third week in February; and the 60° F. plot, the third week in March. Slides were then shown representing the effects of the various temperatures upon each variety. It

Mentor Boy as grown under artificial light.



A study of the effect of various light intensities on flower bud initiation and development.

appeared that the 70° F. treatment might turn out to be the most satisfactory one.

The third experiment involved a study of the growth and flowering of this plant under artificial illumination. Only one variety, Mentor Boy, was used in this experment. The plants were grown in a basement at a temperature near 62° F. The lights were turned on at 8:00 p. m. No natural light reached the plants at any time. The following plots were set up: "Daylight" fluorescent tubes at 100 fc., 200 fc., and 300 fc., "white" fluorescent tubes at 300 fc.; "blue" fluorescent tubes at 300 fc.; "gold" fluorescent tubes at 300 fc., and 100 watt incandescent lamps at 300 fc. Colored slides showed that the most satisfactory plants were those grown under "Daylight" or "White" fluorescent tubes at 300 fc. These plants began flowering in early February. It was recommended that 40 watt tubes with reflectors be used and that the distance from pot rim to tube should be eleven inches. Twelve hours of light per day were recommended. It was also pointed out that the light intensity drops off rapidly beyond the edges of the reflectors.

A study of the effect of varying nutrition, organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen, and soil pH upon growth and flowering of saintpaulias constituted the fourth experiment. All plants used were of the variety Mentor Boy. At this point Dick defined organic fertilizer, inorganic fertilizer and pH. Slides were then shown of plots having low, medium, and high amounts of the following nutrients: inorganic nitrogen, organic nitrogen, potash, and calcium. Plots having pH values of 4.5, 5.5, 6.5, and 7.5 were also represented. It was noted that at this time the plots did not show any differences that should be considered significant.

The fifth experiment consisted of a study of various soil mixtures in which were included soil, sand, well-rotted manure, leafmold, "vitaloam" and "moat" in various proportions. The slides seemed to indicate that mixtures including well-rotted manure appeared slightly better than the others, but it was pointed out that this experiment will not be completed for at least several months.

Several methods of watering were discussed as experiment number six. A plot of plants grown by the constant-level method was contrasted with one watered by hand in the usual way. The slides that were shown revealed that the plants grown by the constant-level method were slightly superior. It was pointed out however, that this experiment is not yet completed.

The last study that was discussed was that of determining chromosome numbers in some plants suspected of having double the usual number. It was indicated that this work requires considerable skill, patience, and time, but that at least some information should be available in a few months.

Dick then concluded his talk by again listing the names of the experiments, and pointing out that his comments had been the "score at the half."

He then suggested a number of phases on which further study should be made, including methods to speed propagation, a study of photoperiodism in this plant; a light intensity duration study; and a study of the effects of illuminating gas upon this plant.

He ended by thanking the African Violet Society for making the Fellowship available to him.

Saintpaulia Species

PRESENTED AT THE FIFTH CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC., DAYTON, OHIO APRIL 27, 1951*

Evan Roberts, Department of Horticulture
Michigan State College

The scientific names of the African violets are made up of two parts. The first part, Saintpaulia, is the name of the genus. The second name consists of the name of the species which is usually not capitalized. Thus we have the following species of African violets. The first names all start with Saintpaulia.

Saintpaulia amaniensis . .(S. a-man-ee-en-sis)
Saintpaulia diplotricha . (S. dip-lo-trick-uh)
Saintpaulia goetzeana . .(S. gets-ee-anna)
Saintpaulia grotei . . . .(S. grow-tea-i)
Saintpaulia ionantha . . .(S. i-o-nan-tha)
Saintpaulia magungensis .(S. mă-goon-gĕn-sis)
Saintpaulia orbicularis .(S. or-bic-u-laris)
Saintpaulia pusilla . . .(S. pu-silla)
Saintpaulia tongwensis . .(S. tong-wensis)

These are not as difficult to learn as they may sound. If you can remember the word Saintpaulia you have learned one half of the names. The species names of the African violets are either descriptive or named after a person or place.

A species is a category of classification lower than a genus. Usually the group possesses in common one or more distinctive characters and reproduce their characteristics in their offspring. As far as the species of African violets are concerned, let us consider a species as a representative of distinct groups of wild East African Saintpaulia plants. They presumably have the ability to produce plants like themselves. These species have been growing, or now are growing, in their native locations in East Africa and most of the known ones have been introduced into the United States within recent times.

*This presentation was illustrated with slides which have not been reproduced in this article.

Mr. Roberts

Aside from their natural beauty as specimen plants, their main value lies in their possible use to create new African violet varieties, with habits of growth strikingly different than many of you are accustomed to seeing in the usual varieties of African violets. Some of you are now hybridizing these very interesting species with this object in mind. Preliminary hybridization has indicated that our existing varieties will cross readily with these species.

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Invisible Enemies of the African Violet

Freeman A. Weiss, Washington, D. C.

Most of us can recall some episode of the more romantic days of our childhood when we wished ardently for the power to become invisible, as the good princes and bad goblins did in the fairy tales we read - and more than half believed! We imagined all sorts of sometimes heroic, but often mischievous, ends that we could accomplish if we could only go out of sight temporarily and at will.

Nowadays we don't believe in invisible persons, good or bad, but we recognize many potent forces that affect our daily lives, yet operate wholly beyond our ability to see or hear, such as gravity and magnetism, and such sub-microscopic things as viruses and molecules. Seeing is believing, so they say, but modern man has to believe in many things he can't see, or at any rate, see with his unaided eye. All this is mentioned only to substantiate the thesis of this article, which is that the African Violet has several invisible but nonetheless real enemies. Though we can't (ordinarily) see them, we can certainly recognize them by their effects. This refers primarily to the organisms - fungi, nematodes, perhaps bacteria - that are responsible for root and crown rot.

Some of the other insidious enemies of African violets, such as mites and thrips, aren't too easily visible unless we know just where to look and use a magnifying aid to our natural vision, but we sometimes know to our sorrow that they are there. Nematodes are still smaller, mostly from 1/50th to 1/100th of an inch long, - beyond the range of an ordinary hand lens - and so far as the African violet is concerned, they all live underground. There have been unconfirmed reports of nematode caused leaf spots of saintpaulia, but none has as yet been authenticated. Furthermore, nematodes are mostly "inside workers", often imbedded in the plant tissues, as for example those causing knots and galls on roots, or they feed partly within the fine roots, which are poisoned or killed by their presence. When a plant thusly infected is dug up and examined in the ordinary way, the tiny roots and their nematode parasites are left behind in the soil. Thus for many years, even the professional plant pathologists failed to recognize the root-feeding, non-gall forming nematodes as serious plant pests, but these subterranean saboteurs are now known to be an important factor in "sick soil". That the African violet is a potential victim of a number of kinds of root feeding nematodes, as well as of the root-knot species, has now been amply confirmed. Aside from the direct harm they do roots by tearing the tissues with their microscopic stylets, and by feeding on the sap, they pave the way for other organisms - the fungi and bacteria -to enter and extend the damage. In fact, we believe that most of the root and crown rots of saintpaulia, with which fungi are undoubtedly

Dr. Freeman Weiss

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"The Questions They Ask Me"

Victor H. Ries, Extension Floriculturist, Ohio State

Dr. Ries, Mr. Edens and Dr. Smith

This informative talk covered the multitude of questions a plant interested public may ask a horticulturist. The following suggestions in plant care were given by Dr. Ries.

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

LET'S LOOK AT THE SOIL

SOIL REACTION - Determined by delicate chemical or electric test. Called pH on a scale of 1 to 10. pH 7 is neutral, above is alkaline, below is acid. Most plants are highly tolerant - grow pH 5.5 to pH 7.5. Members of heath family and some other plants require acid soil, pH 4.5-5.5. Other factors often more important. Soils do not change materially in reaction from year to year.

SOIL AERATION - Roots require air same as leaves. The finer the particles of soil the less air space between them, the more pores filled with water. Organic matter better than sand or vermiculite for aerating soil. Vermiculite apt to keep soil too wet.

SOIL STRUCTURE - Best results with soil high in organic matter - 1/4 to 1/3 Spaghnum peat will be most permanent. If leaf mold used have leaf particles still present. Muck not satisfactory. If clay soil used add up to 1/3 sand . African violets need relatively little soil. Azaleas pots or even pans better than regular pots.

A FEW GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

FLOWER PRODUCTION - Adequate growth of plant necessary. Proper temperature between 70° and 80° dropping to 60° at night may retard flower production. Proper amount of light . . . If daylight between 700 and 1100 foot candles. If artificial light . . . 12 hrs. 300 ft. candle daylight fluorescent. If multiple crowned remove center leaves to allow more light to center of crowns.

CAUSES OF TROUBLE OTHER THAN INSECTS AND DISEASES - Earthworms in pots dry out roots, destroy organic matter. Keeping plants too cool, possibly on cold window sill. Giving plants insufficient light. Giving plants too much light. Overwatering. Underwatering. Irregular watering. Overfertilization. Under fertilization.

WATER - Temperature not important except when applied to leaves. Under 70° may discolor.

Watering from below (subirrigation) more apt to give deposit of salts on pot rim than watering from above.

Constant level not satisfactory in greenhouse at Ohio State University.

Plants can be grown dry, like succulents and bloom or can be kept moist like ferns and begonias. Alternating from one method to other often disastrous.

FERTILIZATION - Mix complete fertilizer with soil before planting, 3" pot to 1 bu. soil or 1 oz. to 4 or 5 lbs. of soil. Afterwards fertilize every 4 to 8 weeks, March to November.

SOIL STERILIZATION - Minimum temperature of 180° for 1/2 hr. means 2 to 3 hrs. at 200-250° to penetrate mass. Methyl Bromide capsules available. Treat out of doors in closed container.

Mrs. Rector autographing book for Mrs. Marsh and friends

HOW TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS

By Carolyn Rector

Reprinted from (How to Grow African Violets) by Carolyn Rector
with permission of the Lane Publishing Co., Menlo Park, California.

CHAPTER 7

Methods of Watering

WHENEVER I SPEAK BEFORE A CLUB about watering African violets, I always find that there is at least one person in the audience who grows violets in pots that are constantly standing in water anywhere from one to three inches deep, has done so for years, has never lost a plant, and has the finest violets in the neighborhood, and wants to know how I account for that.

I don't account for it. Such procedure is completely contrary to all the accepted rules for culture of the saintpaulia, which is not an aquatic plant, and which will usually curl up and die if watered too freely.

There is another violet fancier who waters the plants once a week on a certain day, regardless of weather conditions or the size of the plant. She never mentions losing one.

If you would like to try either of these methods, you might practice them first on some plants that you consider expendable, so that if they die you will not be discouraged.

The basic rules about watering—that these growers claim to violate so successfully—are simple and easy to follow. These are: Soak the plants thoroughly with warm water, let the surplus drain off, and if any is left in the pot saucers after an hour or so, pour it out, do not let the plants stand in it. Then do not water again until the surface is dry to the touch. And I mean DRY.

The frequency with which they should be watered depends on the size of the pot, the porousness of the soil, the variety of the plant, the time of the year, and the conditions under which they are grown. Some individual plants will take more water than others. And if the humidity in your house is high, the plants will not take up as much water as they will when the humidity is low.

Top vs. Bottom Watering

The time-honored method of watering violets, which is usually recommended to the beginner, is always to water from the bottom by standing the pot in a pan of water until dampness shows on the surface of the soil in the pot. This is a very good way, particularly if you have only one or two plants. But it is a bothersome method to follow if you have a large number of violets. With a large collection, you would have to spend most of your time dunking potted violets in pans of water.

Actually, if you are careful, you can water violets from the top, like any other house plant. Use a watering can with a long thin spout that can nose in under the leaves. With it, you can pour water gently on the soil around the plant, taking care not to pour any into the center of the crown.

Wick Watering

Wick watering is a troublefree and successful way of keeping your violets adequately irrigated. If you would like to try it, obtain a piece of fiberglass wicking, about the size of twine, cut off a 4-inch piece, and draw one end of it through the drainage hole of a pot. You do not need any special pots for this system, although you can buy them if you wish. Spread out the end inside the pot until it lies flat all around the hole. This will keep it from slipping out. Then put in your soil and plant as usual. Water the plant from the top until water comes through and drips from the end of the wick. Then rest the pot in a saucer or container that is made so it will hold a few inches of water and support the potted plant so its bottom rests an inch or so above the surface of the water. The bottom of the pot must not touch the water in the lower container. There must always be an air space between the bottom of the pot and the water.

About every two weeks, empty out the water from the bottom vessel and let the plant dry until the surface soil is quite dry. Thoroughly clean the bottom container and refill with water or solution. Then water the plant until it drips from the wick and put it back in place.

There is some danger of crown rot in this method, but many people like it. One of the secrets of successful wick watering is not to use too fat wicks, which keep the plant too wet. For a plant of four-inch pot size or smaller, a wick about the size of twine is sufficient. For very large plants, a fatter wick may be safely used.

Constant Water-level Method

The constant water-level method is used by some growers. Here is the way to work it:

Obtain a water-tight pan or trough not less than 6 inches deep. The length and width will depend on the size of the space

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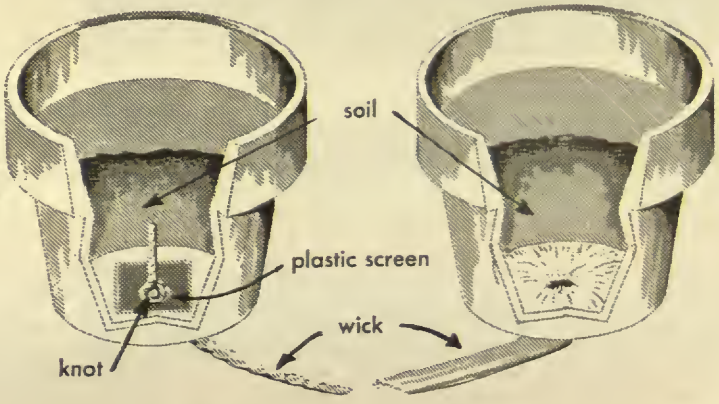

How to attach fiberglass wick to pot so it will not slip out.

THROUGH THE WINDOW

Ella Carter and Priscella Landaker, Ohio

Spectators congregated on the corner of Fourth and Main Streets in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 10 and 11, 1951, for a view through the giant windows of Cincinnati Gas and Electric Co. Naturally, African violets were the attraction. The Queen City African Violet Society was holding its second competitive show.

The crowd was fascinated by the annual display on the ledge directly behind the plate glass windows, which was the contribution of Mr. Henry Peterson of the J. A. Peterson and Son Co., of Cincinnati. Mr. Peterson created a beautiful picture of "Violets in a Woodland Scene" by using four hundred African violet plants which were banked by palms and lovely gloxinias. Further interest was focused on a map of the Tanganyika section of East Africa which had been placed to the extreme right in the window. Mr. Peterson had designated the exact areas on this map where the original specie plants were found. Data concerning each specimen was also attached to the map.

Looking beyond the window, the spectators could see that this municipal-minded firm had given African violets full possession of their foyer. There the show was staged in the form of a wheel. A large fountain was the hub, grass-cloth covered tables were the spokes, and gold colored guard ropes were the rim. Colored lights played over the three hundred forty-seven plants including ninety-four arrangements which were entered for competition. The over-all effect was that of a huge rainbow.

Evening viewers could not realize that there were one hundred sixty-three varieties among the three hundred forty-seven, exclusive of the special exhibits, neither could these viewers see important details as did the day-time viewers. There was a constant grouping of people around the educational table and the sixty plants grown by two members of the club under fluorescent lights. The third special exhibit was that of the club's founder and first president, Mrs. Arthur Radtke. Her "one-gal" show was a conspicuous feature. Included in the spectacular array were fifty-four unusual varieties of large plants. The judges awarded Mrs. Radtke the tri-color ribbon.

In the competitive class, the first prize was awarded to Mrs. Mark Allgeier, the second to Mrs. John Schwartz, and the third to Mrs. A. B. Cooper. Judges awarded a total of one hundred sixty-three ribbons.

The specimen judges were Mesdames Layson, Browning and Mutchner while the arrangement judges were Mrs. Garry and Mrs. Smyth.

Mrs. Edward Lotz, the general chairman, and her entire committee are to be congratulated for giving the Cincinnati area a most unusual treat. The Queen City African

Right, Mrs. Harry Moeller Sr., Mrs. James Asmann and Mr. Walter Beckjord, Pres. Cincinnati Gas & Electric Co.

Left, Myrtle Radtke and her exhibit.

Below, this shows the judges in action Clem Browning, Anna Layson and Mary Mutchner.

Violet Society is grateful for all who participated and cooperated so completely. Special appreciation should go to the Cincinnati Gas and Electric. Co. who made possible the beautiful setting that you may glimpse in the accompanying pictures.

CLUB SHOWS

Left to right, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Bradford, Mrs. Carey, Mrs. Walsh and Mrs. Rule.

Above, Doll House by Mrs. Roy Vineyard.

Below, Hawaiian Head by Mrs. Lester Smith.

OAK RIDGE

The Oak Ridge African Violet Club held an exhibit of African violets, on May 12th and 13th, in the east lounge of Ridge Recreation Hall. The exhibit was open to the public. Taking part were all forty-eight members of the four sections, Charter, Ionantha, Amethyst and Neptune. Officers for the current year are:

President,	Mrs. Miles Bradford
Vice President,	Mrs. A. B. Bowman
Treasurer,	Mrs. H. M. McLeod
Secretary,	Mrs. G. L. Krattler.

The room in which the exhibit was held is thirty-six feet by sixty feet, with soft green walls and gold draperies. Gold crepe paper was used under all the specimen and seedling plants, creating a lovely background color scheme for the nearly four hundred plants.

Included were special arrangements, specimen plants, seedlings, literature of many kinds, "give-away" leaves, and a woodland scene depicting violets in their natural habitat.

Six hundred ninety-six people from forty-two cities and sixteen states signed the guest book.

The background mural for the woodland scene was painted on wallpaper, creating a lovely picture eighteen by eight feet. The painting was done by the following members: Mrs. C. E. Larson, Mrs. M. K. Walsh, Mrs. Roce Jones, Mrs. C. J. Metzler, and Mr. F. K. Shook.

The floor under the plants was protected by tarpaulians, newspapers and roofing

The Greenhouse
Exhibit
by
Mrs. A. B. Bowman

material. The scene was built up in back with crushed cardboard boxes covered with bedspreads and shower curtains. Next came peat moss and eight bushels of woods moss which was gathered several days prior to the exhibit and kept watered. Peat moss and the woods moss were used around the violets to cover the clay pots. Dozens of ferns were dug the day before the exhibit and used with logs, stones and house plants, such as philodendron, ivy, avocado trees, and episcias. There were approximately one hundred twenty-five blooming violets.

The woodland scene covered an area of about eighteen by eight feet. Members of the committee were: Mrs. D. J. Mahegan, chairman, Mrs. R. M. Branch, co-chairman, Mrs. Roy Vineyard, Mrs. John Price, and Mrs. Thomson.

METROPOLITAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Left to right, Mrs. Hoy Jr., Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Swanson, Mrs. Husted, Mrs. Blackburn and Mr. Johnson.

The Metropolitan African Violet Club brought its winter season to a close with the June meeting. The seedling project, initiated by our president, Mrs. J. Raymond Hoy, Jr., and taken care of by Mrs. Martha Husted, brought satisfactory results at this meeting, when the thriving plants were distributed to our members. A record of

ownership, by numbers, is being kept for future reference. This fall we plan to show the seedlings at one of our meetings, to see who drew the winners.

Another of the winter projects proved very worth while, much to the satisfaction of the members. Early last fall, it was suggested by Mrs. Husted that the members donate their excess plants to the patients at St. Elizabeth's Hospital as a source of interest and occupation. This program was enthusiastically accepted by the members, and recently the club received personal thanks from some of the doctors at the hospital. We have heard that these violets have become an important interest in the lives of these patients, who have learned not only to care for the larger plants, but how to propagate from leaves and raise small plants. A copy of the hospital paper was sent to us in which appeared an article written by one of the patients on the subject "The Fad of Growing African Violets."

At the spring show held downtown in the attractively suitable rooms of the Engineers Club, a large number of gorgeous plants were exhibited and properly appreciated.

The winner of the Sweepstakes Cup for award of the largest number of ribbons was Mrs. A. N. Carter. The Best-in-the-Show plant was Mrs. Martha Husted's Blue Snow. For second and third Best-in-Show were, respectively, Mrs. A. N. Carter's Blue Bonnet and her Neptune. These prizes were silver compotes in graduating sizes. The plant winning the popularity contest from votes of the visitors was Mrs. Martha Husted's Blue Eyed Girl.

Featured was an exhibit of novelty arrangements showing cleverness and imagination. Various foliage plants were combined with African violets in all sorts of containers, bowls, aquariums, oddly shaped pieces of driftwood and silver compotes. The winner of the novel arrangements was Mrs. Eunice Mercer.

For this fall, the invitation of the National Capital Canary Club to join them in exhibiting plants and holding a plant sale at their annual show in November has been accepted.

ROCHESTER AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW

The African violet species exhibit.

The third annual show of the African Violet Society of Rochester and Vicinity was held on May 6th at the Museum of Arts & Science. The attendance was the largest for an African Violet Show held in this section of the country, and one reporter likened the Museum to a beehive with all the people flocking in to see the violets. At times streets were blocked and parking space was indeed at a premium.

Approximately 350 plants were exhibited in the cultural classes, with many entries in the decorative classes. Mrs. Leslie D. Perry of Brier Hill, Pa., Mrs. Elroy Coniber of Batavia, N. Y., Mrs. Frank G. Copeland, Port Credit, Ontario, Canada, and Mr. Karl E. Lewis of Lockport, N. Y., were the cultural class judges. Miss Mary Terruli and Mrs. Walter E. Miller of Rochester, N. Y., judged the decorative classes.

Queen of the Show Award was given to Mrs. A. H. Ricketson of North Chili, N. Y., for her beautiful plant of Double Neptune. Mrs. Ricketson also won the sweepstakes award, winning the most blue ribbons in the cultural classes.

The detailed display on propagation, with Mrs. Charles Anthony and Mrs. Carey Ostrander in charge, and also the commercial exhibits, proved most popular.

Mrs. Joseph E. Weber of Rochester was chairman of the show.

Blue Girl

Lady Geneva

CHICAGO SHOW

The First African Violet Society of Chicago held its first show on May 16th at Mayfair Park Fieldhouse. This was the first show of its kind in this area and created a tremendous demand for information which is still being felt even though it was open to the public for just six hours.

Approximately a thousand guests attended, not only from Chicago and suburbs but from every section of Illinois. Other states represented were Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

There were three hundred plants on display which included over one hundred varieties.

Purple ribbons were awarded for unusual exhibits to Mrs. Claude E. Greely and Mrs. F. J. Petrick, members of the original Chicago society.

Left to right, Mrs. Fowkes, Mrs. Trendler and Mrs. Greeley.

Judges were Mrs. E. G. Magill of Aurora, Illinois and Mrs. Theodore Rosenak of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The propagation and seedling exhibits attracted considerable attention and kept the members in charge busy answering questions etc., continually.

GREENVILLE CLUB SHOW

"Though April Showers" did come our way down in Greenville, S. C., none was so refreshing and colorful as the one which, on April 9, rained violets.

Even Al Jolson could hardly have been more convincing than members of the Greenville African Violet Club, that it was "raining violets" at the club's annual African Violet Show.

With "It's Raining Violets", theme of the show, in large letters on a lavender placard which was suspended in the center of the show room, narrow purple ribbon streamers, with bunches of violets in each, rained down from the central back-drop.

The 212 entries in the show included about 60 varieties of violets and 10 classes.

Most outstanding in the show were the "violets in unusual containers." Mrs. Homer Derrick, show chairman and sweepstakes winner, displayed a violet plant in an antique music box which she acquired in London on a recent trip. The first selection listed on the old music box was "Sweet Violets."

The wedding shoe worn by the mother of an exhibitor, and her own baby shoe, also served as containers for violets.

The theme of the Greenville, S. C., African Violet Show was suspended from the center of the show room and rained streamers with violet bouquets.

Mrs. W. B. Mulligan, whose mountain friend gave her this old coffee grinder puts it to the same use most any violet enthusiast would.

The first selection on this antique music box arrangement by Mrs. Homer Derrick is "Sweet Violets." An appropriate container!

Other containers were moustache cups, coffee grinders, pipes, iron pots and copper kettles, an old tree stump, miniature cradles and even a miniature still.

Coffee and tea table arrangements were set in spring pastels with violets as the predominating decorations. Shades of white to pink and mauve to intense purple were in arrangements complementing choices of linen and china.

Flowers were judged by horticulture standards as well as on arrangement and originality and there was an exhibit by a local grower on soil and seeds with examples of suggested methods of propagation.

The show was staged in Greenville's rustic Sears Shelter -- a natural for violets -- with Mrs. J. W. Brabham and Mrs. Leon Kimmel as staging co-chairmen.

Mrs. Ed Copeland is immediate past president of the Greenville African Violet Club and Mrs. J. W. Brabham is the new president. The club has sixty-six members.

SPRINGFIELD SHOW

The African Violet Society of Springfield, Del. County, Pennsylvania, held its Third Annual Show in the Community Methodist Church on May 5, 1951.

Thirty-eight of the one hundred seventy-five plants displayed were new varieties developed in the last year.

The arrangement classes created quite a bit of interest. They included arrangements suitable for centerpieces, hall tables, violets in containers not ordinarily used for plants, and miniature arrangements.

Mrs. Ralph Frye was in charge of the propagation table, showing the methods of rooting leaves and raising plants from seed.

The following members were in charge of the show:

Mrs. Howard Morris,	President
Mrs. R. J. Schadewald,	Chairman
Mrs. J. Wrigley,	Schedule
Mrs. W. L. Becker,	Staging
Mrs. J. Gross,	Entries
Mrs. P. Filing	Classification
Mrs. V. J. Turner,	Publicity
Mrs. James Craig,	Hospitality
Mrs. Wm. Eister,	Plant Sale
Mrs. D. B. Jarvis,	Plant Sale

Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Awards Committee Chairman, and The Silver Cup Award

The Silver Cup Award

This is the Silver Cup that is to be awarded to the best registered name plant entered in the Convention Show in Chicago, April 24, 25 and 26, 1952.

The Award of Merit Ribbons (Blue) and the Honorable Mention Ribbons (Red) will be awarded to the runner up plants in this class.

Your officers and convention committee are planning a "bigger and better than ever before" show for our next convention.

The Awards Committee, Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Mr. John Good and Mrs. Raymond Crosby planned these awards.

So begin now to ready your plants and bring your best registered name plant to the Convention. You may win the coveted Silver Cup!

QUESTION BOX

LAURETTA L. LITTIG 3016 Jefferson Ave. Davenport, Iowa

I have had a number of inquiries regarding "hybrid" African violets. The general opinion is that all of our violets are hybrids with the exception of the first ones that were brought to this country. The question is -- "Why are certain violets sold as 'hybrids'?" Mr. C. W. Fischer Jr. of Fischer's Nurseries has given his explanation, which you will find in the "Answers" column.

Since the "strawberry jar" has become so popular for planting African violets, I have had letters asking where these jars can be bought. I bought my jar several years ago, at the Monmouth Illinois Pottery, but they inform me they no longer make them. If anyone knows where these may be obtained, I'll appreciate your sending me a card.

When sending in your question, don't forget to enclose a postage stamp or stamped return envelope.

QUESTIONS

I have several Blue Boy violets -- one two years old ond one a young plant. Both were in full bloom and looked fine. Then in a day or two they began to wilt and leaves curled around the edges. Now my White Lady is doing the same thing. I disposed of the old plant, but took up the young plant and washed the dirt from the roots which looked all right. I've had violets for five years but never had anything like this before. Will appreciate your help.

Mrs. W. H. Bower, Ky.

So far I have been very fortunate with my violets, but there has been one thing puzzling me. What causes my mature plants to develop such a long crown? They push out of the ground in spite of my repotting, and even cutting them off and replanting.

Edna C. Shaffer, Ill.

I would like to know, should the stem be taken off after the flowers drop off -- or let it drop off itself? I have been told it would injure the plant if I took them off.

I have a plant that is healthy looking but the leaves tend to hug the pot. They don't look droopy -- just hang down. All my other plants have leaves standing up or straight out. I have been wondering if something could be wrong.

Mrs. Irwin Jackson,Pa.

Is there a definite advantage or disadvantage to self-pollination of a plant?

Is there any reliable program for mite prevention that is less dangerous to use than sodium selenate?

Is there another violet ailment that resembles mites? A year ago I planted seed and got some nice plants but once in a while a plant turns up that has all the symptoms of mites -- curled leaves at crown, blossoms streaked with white, which are small and drop prematurely. However, this condition does not spread to other normal healthy plants on the same table. So far, I have merely disposed of these plants instead of treating them in any way.

Mrs. Robert C. Nicholson, D. C.

Can you tell me the proper way to pollinate violets? Some of mine take and some don't, so maybe I'm not doing it the best way.

Mrs. Lawrence Young, Calif

Why do some leaves put down in plant medium produce plants in a few months and other leaves take longer? From several leaves planted at the same time, one produced plants and the other just roots. Why is this?

Aileen Bell, Kans.

ANSWERS

Most all of our violets are hybrids. However, the pure species, such as Ionantha, Grotei, etc., would not be considered hybrid varieties.

It is my understanding that most of the commercial greenhouse varieties have been developed through a cross breeding program, evidence of their hybrid characteristics.

Varieties that have developed through sporting (i.e. the original double) are not considered hybrid types. However, sports are in general cross pollenated also, so

again, it is my belief that most of the present types, with exception of species, should be regarded as "hybrid varieties."

C. W. Fischer, Jr., N. J.

Starting Leaves

To Mrs. Otto Jauch, Minn.

Leaves cut in the Cancer sign of the Zodiac will root nicely in water without rotting. I use this sign and seldom lose a leaf. The sign "Virgo" is also good. For transplanting, I use either of these signs and when necessary, the congenial signs of Taurus, Gemini, Aries, Scorpio, Sagittarius, and Libra, but mostly Capricorn, if I cannot get this work done in the Cancer sign.

Mrs. A. C. Vieth, Iowa

To Mrs. Otto Jauch, Minn.

I think it is better to wait for plants to be separated after they finish blooming, although I have done it while they were in bloom. This may slacken the blooming for a while but it will soon start again and won't harm the plant. The best way is to separate the plants when they are small or before they start blooming.

As to the flowers dropping off some plants sooner than others, I have found it is just the nature of some plants to do this. The flowers on my Doubles never drop off. I have to pick them off when they are wilted. On other plants I think flowers are open about a week before they fall off, but are generally fresh looking when they do drop off.

H. A. Hunt, Iowa

Long Bare Stalk

To Mrs. Howard W. Snyder, N. Y.

As a plant grows and new leaves form in the center, it is natural for the outer leaves to gradually wilt and come off. After a number of leaves have been taken off and as the plant grows, the result is a long bare stalk under the plant. The plant eventually gets topheavy and is inclined to lean on to one side, and if nothing is done, you will soon have a large plant hanging over the side of the pot. To me this is anything but a pretty sight. If one wants to keep the plant this stalk should be cut off about an inch below the plant and rerooted in water, and then repotted. The best plan, when a plant gets to this stage, is to take a few leaves and start new plant, and throw the old plant away. Young plants are so much prettier.

Laura Mason, Ind.

Plant Dying After Blooming

To Rose Mary Peeling, Md.

When a plant blooms profusely, the pot is usually full of roots and needs moisture. However, if the soil is not loose enough and doesn't have good drainage, it may stay too wet and cause root rot. Either being too dry or too wet can cause a plant to wilt. From my experience, I can keep the soil most evenly moist by watering a little from the top and a little from the bottom.

H. A. Hunt, Iowa

Sodium Selenate

To Col. C. K. Darling, Wyo.

When using Sodium Selenate, it is best to have the soil damp. Why don't you try Optox or N. N. O. R. neither of which are poisonous, and these are really effective. I dip my plants occasionally in N. N. O. R. and spray them about once a month, and they keep healthy.

Milton Mack, Ark.

Wobbly Plants

To Mrs. James Easson, Kans.

Contrary to Mr. Miller's belief, I am quite sure all plants that become wobbly in the pot do not have nematodes. After taking up a number of my plants, I found good healthy roots and no nematodes. I put small stones around the stalk of the plant to keep it from wobbling. My Redheaded Girl now has 75 blossoms with the stones holding the plant in place.

Mrs. Raymond Delgardo, Kans.

Flower Drop After Watering

To Harry Gensemer, Ill.

Personally, I've never had my flowers drop prematurely but have read that escaping gas, low humidity, too much fertilizer, or lack of fresh air will cause the buds to fall before opening. And that too much nitrogen in the soil will cause this right after watering. It is possible you do not have a well balanced soil mixture.

H. A. Hunt, Iowa

Gas Heat

To Mrs. Newton Stephens, Iowa

I have heard several people say that as soon as they turn on their gas furnaces in the fall, their violets stop blooming. We heat our home with gas and also cook with it, but my flowers continue to bloom profusely all winter. It would, therefore, seem to me there must be gas escaping from the furnace, if it affects the flowers or else there is not enough fresh air in the house.

Mrs. L. Jensen, Iowa

Pollination

To Col. C. K. Darling, Wyo.

When seed pods mature, the plant does not die. When I found I could successfully

Cont. on page 57

REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Neil C. Miller

PART I.

The following applications have been received during the period April 1, 1951 to June 25, 1951. No objections to registration are apparent to the Committee.

Christina 4-29-51	Tinari Floral Gardens Bethayres, Penna.
Blue Delaware 4-29-51	Tinari Floral Gardens Bethayres, Penna.
Miss Liberty 4-29-51	Tinari Floral Gardens Bethayres, Penna.
Tinari's Pink 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Wine Velvet 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Helen Wilson Bouquet 4-29-51	Tinari Floral Gardens Bethayres, Penna.
Lacy Bouquet 4-29-51	Tinari Floral Gardens Bethayres, Penna.
Marine Bouquet 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Navy Bouquet 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Norseman Bouquet 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Ruby Bouquet 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Semi-Double Blue Bouquet 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Velvet Bouquet 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Pink DuPont 5-21-51	Oliver H. Pease 1913 Tonawanda Ave. Akron 5, Ohio

Christina and Blue Delaware were originated by Mrs. W. K. duPont and are so listed on the Registration Application. Sufficient documentary evidence was submitted to show that she had granted to Tinari's the right to introduce the plants.

The above applications are being published without plant descriptions because the announcement that descriptions would be required in the future had not been published when they were received. All subsequent applications will be accompanied by descriptions.

PART II.

These four applications were originally attached to the June 1951 Report as being published under Committee protest. Publication of this section was missed. That turns out to have been a fortunate error as the questionable points have since been resolved. They are now published with no strings attached but in a separate section to indicate that the actual date of application merited earlier publication.

Oriental Girl 1-9-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar 1223 East Oak Park Des Moines 16, Iowa
Perfection 2-12-51	Miss Edith B. Hendrix 9927 East Howland Av Temple City, Cal.
Periwinkle Girl 2-1-51	Mrs. Lela Reichert 3114 Charles St. Omaha, Nebr.
Red Girl Champion 2-1-51	Mrs. Lela Reichert 3114 Charles St. Omaha, Nebr.

PART III

There is a correction to be made in the June Report. The name listed as "Jinaro" should have been "Jivaro." This resulted from mis-reading a written application and points up the desirability of filling out applications with typewriter as requested.

Also, it would help materially if women would designate whether "Mrs." or "Miss" should be applied to their name.

PART IV.

Three matters, brought up by the Registration Committee, were reviewed and acted

upon by the Board during the Convention series of meetings. All were approved.

1. Name reservation, as announced in the June Report.
2. Requiring of written descriptions pointing out superiority before Applications would be received, also as announced in the June issue.
3. Defining the minimum number of vegetative reproductions that a plant must have gone before an Application for Registration can be received on it as two, that is, no matter what the method of origination of the plant (seedling, sport, mutation, or otherwise) it must have gone through two successive reproductions from cuttings before it can be registered.

PART V

Name Reservation

The response to the announcement concerning name reservation has been gratifying. The following names have been reserved to date:

Aida
Angel Girl
Angelica
Angelon
Arrowhead
Blue Eyed Sue
Bluette
Bright Angel
Bright Regent
Bugle Girl
Cambria
Carolyn R.
Charmion
Cherub
Dainty Girl
Daddy's Girl
Dawnflower
Delight
First Love
Frosty
Frosty Girl
Gaucho
General Mac
Georgette
Golondrina
Helen's Girl
Hortense
Jerry's Boy
Juno
Lady Esther
Lady Inez
Maple Girl
Maroon Girl
Masquerade
Miss Edna
Morning Glory
Moro
Mount Hood
Narbonne
Oakleaf Girl
Orchid Fringe
Pacific Redwood
Petite
Pinafore
Pink Eyed Girl
Pocahontas
Queen Elizabeth
Ramona
Redbud
Rose Perfection
Rosetta
Ruby Jewel
Red Spoon Girl
Surprise
Tom Thumb
Trumpet Girl
Valentine

It should be noted that while plants are in existence to which these names are tentatively being applied the plants as such are not available. Many of them are still first generation seedlings which have not been adequately observed to establish their worth.

PART VI

In order that requests for name reservation can be checked as adequately as possible for conflict with prior use of the same or similar names it is necessary that the Master File of Varieties be as complete as possible. To this end, assistance has been secured in enlarging the File.

1. All commercial lists are to be abstracted by Solange Slivka, and a card made out for each new name encountered. She wants to review all commercial lists issued since April, 1950. So if you are a commercial grower, wholesale or retail, or a home seller of either plants or leaves, and have issued a list since April, 1950, please send copies of all lists issued since then to:

Mrs. Solange Slivka
N. Ohio St.
Fayette, Ohio

2. All other name lists that can be made available will be reviewed by Lois Minehan. Many individuals have extensive lists that they have made for their own use. Some excellent lists circulate with the Pigeons. If you have such a list, or access to one, please send it to:

Mrs. James W. Minehan
29 Circuit Drive
Binghamton, N. Y.

Any new names that appear on the lists will be placed on cards for the File, and the lists returned.

Steps 1 and 2 above will lead to accumulation of considerable information on duplicates, regional and otherwise. We expect to have further announcements to make in this regard in the December Report.

PART VII

Registrations Become Permanent

The protest period on all varieties published in 1950 has now ended. With the exception of one variety, Periwinkle, on which a protest was received and which has not yet been resolved, all plants listed in Part 1 of the 1950 Reports are now permanently registered.

The plants listed in Part 2 of the September 1950 Report are not included. Further comparison or data will be necessary to settle the questions involved concerning them.

Mrs. St. John Takes a Vacation

R. E. Memberthis

This is for fun . . . Editor

Vacations are nice, -- that is, if you can come home and rest awhile before getting into the groove, but the minute she stepped in the door, poor Mrs. St. John saw she would be in a deep rut for days. But, let's go back to the beginning of things.

It was the St. John's first real vacation in ten years, and what a vacation it was to be! Mr. St. John had won a sales contest and the prize was a month at the "Costs-You-Nothing" Family Resort. Mrs. St. John was ecstatically happy until the sickening thought, "What'll I do with my African violets?" brought her back down to earth. Evidently, she was thinking out loud, for her neighbor, Mrs. Ineeda Fixit, heard the query and offered her services.

"After all, Mrs. St. John, you kept our dog while I was in the hospital when Archy was born in 1945, and you tended the furnace when we were away that week in January last year, and the days on end that you have kept my children while I played Canasta, -- why I OWE it to you. I'll take care of your violets just like you do. Goodess knows, I've watched you do it often enough -- I SHOULD know how!"

So, much relieved, Mrs. St. John gave the care of her beloved saintpaulias to Mrs. Ineeda Fixit. The day they were ready to leave, Mrs. St. John called to Mrs. Fixit, "You won't have to bother with the plants before Thursday. I have them all fed and watered, and if you follow the schedule I have written out for you, you'll have no trouble."

That was Monday morning -- 9 a. m.

"I won't have to bother with them until Thursday -- hmmmm," pondered Ineeda. "I might check on them before that; I wouldn't want anything to happen."

At precisely 9:27 a.m., Mrs. Fixit decided that it was time to check. Maybe there might be a plant Mrs. St. John missed, and by Thursday it would be dead if it didn't get a drink, -- a check wouldn't hurt a thing.

Trotting next door, she glanced at the schedule, -- "Plants in Wik-fed pots will go ten days to two weeks before they will need water. Tray of plants set in sand on table at dining-room window will take about two quarts of warm water every four days. --"

"I wonder why Mrs. St. John thought I needed this schedule?" Mrs. Fixit said aloud, though there was no one to hear. "I know as much about them as she does. Sometime I'm going to have a violet myself -- when I have time to give it the care it needs -- . Now, let's see, she says Wik-fed pots are OK until Thursday of next week. This one certainly doesn't look wet enough to me. Here, Posy, I'll give you a drink from the top. Ooops! Where'd the flood come from? Did I crack the pot? Oh golly, this top lifts off the base - and it's FULL of water. Why didn't she tell me Wik-fed pots are in two pieces, Now I know! Anyway Posy, you got a good drink didn't you?"

"Now, you poor little dear over here in the corner. I have pitied you for a long time, you pretty little White Baby. You would like to be over at this other window, wouldn't you? There, well see how you like the nice warm sunshine. I don't know why Mrs. St. John never has any plants at this window; there isn't a window on this street gets more sun!"

"You -- up on the top shelf with all the dead flower stems -- let's tend to you. I always thought stems should be removed after the blossoms fall, and here you are loaded with stems. And DRY!! Why, you poor soul, when have you had a drink? Just be patient until I get these old stems all pulled off, then we'll get a vegetable dish and give you a good soaking. There, now you look better," and in nothing flat, Mrs. Ineeda Fixit went to the kitchen and was back with the water. "Now, let's see the schedule again. 'PLANT ON TOP SHELF HAS SEED-PODS, DO NOT DISTURB'," read Mrs. Fixit, as she blacked-out. After she recovered from the shock, she sat down and carefully read all the remaining instructions before doing any more checking.

" 'Casserole on shelf in pantry contains newly planted seed. It need not be touched at any time.' O.K. casserole, we won't touch you! Everything else seems under control, so I guess I can go home," thought Mrs. Fixit, as she locked the back door.

Once back home, Mrs. Fixit re-read the schedule. There wasn't a word about feeding the plants. In a month they would starve, she was sure, so she decided to try a little experiment and surprise Mrs. St. John. Af-

ter all, just because she didn't have any violets herself didn't keep Mrs. Fixit from reading all about them, or from listening to all the "This-is-the-way-I-do-it" stories. "I'll try some of those new tricks," she thought, so when Thursday came, she carefully collected: one jar each of cold black coffee, strong tea, egg-shell water, orange juice, some soot from the furnace, one Vigoro tablet, and the milk that was left in the cat's dish. From Mrs. St. John's supplies she got a jar of sheep tea.

"Hello, Posy dears," she chirped as she entered the room. "I have a big surprise for you. Let's start right here with you, Neptune. You shall have a big drink of sheep-tea. Gee, this looks awful black, but I was most careful to check the label on the jug, and I know it said 'Concentrated Sheep-tea', so drink 'er down, Neppie . . ."

"Next, let's try some coffee. Mrs. St. John never tries any new ideas like this, but I read somewhere that it didn't hurt them a bit. Here, Ruffles, you may have the coffee -- whoops, some spilled on the new rug. Wait'll I get a rag and clean it up . . . There, now Blue Eyes, how would you like a cup of plain Orange Pekoe tea? Oh, you want sugar in it? O.K., sugar you shall have," she sang as she dashed to the kitchen again. "I must get some violets for myself. They really are fun to work with," she mused.

"Blue Boy, you look like a good healthy little guinea-pig. You try the egg-shell water. Now, don't fret, Blue Girl, I have orange juice for you. Who wants a pill? Let's see, you over there with the high-falutin' name and tiny skinny stems, Diplow -- Diplo-treeka, - -is that how you pronounce it? You can't fool me, you're Kewensis, and you need a pill. We'll have your stems as thick as duPont Blue by the time your mama gets home. Hold still so I can get this real close to your roots; I want it to work fast."

"Pink Beauty, the book said soot will make you pinker -- we'll see -- Now, duPont Lavender Pink, you look dusty. How would you like a milk bath? I've never bathed a violet before, so don't mind if I'm a bit dumb about it. There isn't enough milk here to dunk you, so I'll just pour it over you. -- Come on, milk, run off. I didn't expect you to stay on the leaves. So, you won't run off? O.K. then, stay on," and with that outburst, Mrs. Fixit left the milk to get off the leaves in its own slow way. Finished with her experiments, Mrs. Fixit watered the remaining plants and went home.

The next scheduled visit was Monday, but Friday, Mrs. Fixit thought, inasmuch as she was finished with her own work, it wouldn't hurt to take a peep at the plants before starting downtown. She went over and . . . . "Heavenly days!" she yelled, as she saw the poor little plant which she had put to soak, "You sure ought to be watered by now! There . . . back on your shelf you go . . . . I suppose Mrs. St. John will be furious that I pulled off your seed pods, but how was I to know? . . . I hadn't read that far! Everyone else O.K.? . . . Hi ya, sweetie! How do you feel in that nice warm sun? See you all Monday."

Careful inspection Monday revealed no appreciable difference in the look of most of the plants. Diplotricha looked a little wilted, so it got a vegetable dish watering to pep it up; duPont Lavender Pink was a slight mess! The milk had been none too sweet to begin with, and it had soured all down in the crown of the plant. Mrs. Fixit felt slightly weak, but the only thing to do was to give it a bath . . . so she started out to the kitchen sink; on the way another BETTER idea caught up with her, "Why not give it a shower?"

So, placing the plant in the bath tub, Mrs. Fixit turned on the water. The first "squirt" knocked the plant over, and the snap, crackle and pop of leaves breaking off sounded just like pouring milk on a bowl of Rice Krispies. Not thinking about the shower, Mrs. Fixit dived for the plant and would have retrieved it, except that, at the moment she touched it, the spray of cold water hit her on the back of the neck, she lost her balance, and when she finally recovered, she was sitting in the bathtub with her feet dangling out over the edge. Ineeda Fixit was a mess, surpassed only by duPont Lavender Pink!! How she turned off the water, cleaned up the bathroom and herself is not too clear, but her senses fully returned when she realized she had thrown duPont Lavender Pink in the garbage with never a thought of saving a few leaves to root. Oh, well . . . . .

Not to be outdone by an ole violet, Mrs. Fixit changed clothes and continued her duties. Since the concentrated sheep tea, coffee, egg-shell water and Orange Pekoe tea (with sugar) had not had any noticeable effects on the plants to which they had been given, she decided to change the "diets." This time, Ruffles got a gulp of sheep tea, Blue Boy sipped Orange Pekoe tea with sugar, and Neptune reluctantly drank egg-shell water. Pink Beauty continued to get soot. She certainly should be near red by the time the family returned! Diplotricha

was definitely not pepped up by the vegetable dish of water, so, on the opposite side from the Vigoro pill, she got an Aspirin. "That ought to have you well by Thursday, dear," cooed Mrs. Fixit, as she packed her belongings.

As Mrs. Fixit didn't believe in trying everything on each plant, she decided to repeat the first week's treatment for two more weeks. Surely, something would happen . . . Diplotricha didn't need any more pills; she was too ill for them. In fact, if a flower can go into a coma, she was in a deep one!!

The day before the St. Johns were scheduled to return home, Mrs. Fixit gave the plants a final check. It didn't take an expert to see that Diplotricha was dead -- so much for her, -- duPont Lavender Pink was conspicuous by her absence. Little White Baby, after four weeks of summer sun, had brown splotches on all the leaves that weren't already dead. Ineeda Fixit couldn't understand this . . . . the plant simply couldn't have had any more sun than she had given it. Ruffles, Neptune, Blue Eyes, and Blue Boy each looked as if they had just won a pie-eating contest and had received a pie as a prize. They weren't seriously ill, but they didn't look too good after their bi-weekly feedings. Pink Beauty was in soot to her ankles, but her color hadn't changed much.

Just as she was leaving, the St. Johns drove up. "Oh hello, folks, I just finished fixing your violets. Sorry I don't have time to tell you more, but I feel I should get away for awhile. So -- I'm leaving on the afternoon train for six weeks on the coast, and I really must rush!"

"Thanks a million," called Mrs. St. John, but Mrs. Fixit was out of earshot by then.

Mercifully, she was spared seeing the look on Mrs. St. John's face when she opened the front door, glanced at her beloved violets and collapsed on a chair!

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PROSPECT, OHIO

A HORTICULTURIST LOOKS AT SAINTPAULIAS

Cont. from Page 25

and bathroom and which is published in my book ALL ABOUT HOUSE PLANTS. I got the formula (with due acknowledgement) from the book "Chemical Gardening for the Amateur," by Dr. Conhors and Dr. Tiedjens. I am not saying that this is not effective, and it is interesting to speculate whether it is the baking powder which kills them by blowing them up or the flavor of the epsom salts which causes them to gag themselves to death!"

Mr. Free discovered many other statements about saintpaulia culture that will not hold water, such as: dehydration of manure will kill weed seeds; spraying or dusting D.D.T. on pots will cure plants infested with nematodes; variegation is apt to be continued through seedlings; variegation is not apt to be continued through seedlings. One of these last two statements is obviously wrong.

For a long time the new collection of plants with which Mr. Free was conducting his observations was disgustingly healthy, and for a time he was worried for fear he might have to get his "pest" information second-hand. Then one happy day (???) he found mites on Myrtle (not Mrs. Radtke) and not being particularly careful to avoid contaminating other plants, he soon had half of his collection of 100 plants infested with mites. He later learned that nematodes were also a problem. His present policy is to sterilize the soil, discard and destroy by burning nematode-infested plants and soil, treat the mites with a rotenone preparation, and, if that is not effective, to rely on selenation as a last resort.

In concluding his address, Mr. Free stated, "I have worked in botanic gardens for around forty years, and in the course of that time have become fairly well acquainted with a large number of different kinds of plants, and for many years devoted special attention to those which can be grown in homes. In all my experience I have never come across any plant so tolerant in cultural matter as the saintpaulia. I personally am a middle-of-the-road-man; I like the plants not too wet, not too dry. I water from either top or bottom . . . which ever way is more convenient and does the least damage to the furniture!" Finally, he compared saintpaulia fans to a one-man dog. I wonder if the day will ever come (and stranger things HAVE happened) when Montague Free will forget all about his other house plants and will fill his veins with the "violet" blood of his fellow saintpaulians and saintpauliannes."

- TO WATER -

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Display at E. Tennessee Valley Fair. Photos by Ross Hahn

WORK PAYS OFF...

Naomi Cotton, Tenn.

"The show must go on" and it was show time for the Tennessee Valley African Violet Club. This was our big moment! The time, April 20, 1951. The place, Central Methodist Church recreation room. Our show chairman, Mrs. J. P. Deal.

Our plans were all made and we were confident, maybe over confident, but then I'd better tell you of some of our past experience so you'll know why we felt so smug and sure of ourselves.

Tennessee Valley African Violet Club was so very fortunate as to have been sponsored by Knoxville Saintpaulia Society and to have had the help and advice of nationally known violet lovers such as Alma Wright, Eva Rule, Kitty Lee Richards, Rose and Ross Hahn, Mary Parker, Eleanor Cox, and Jean Hilliard.

Then, too, our first annual violet show was the first competitive show ever to be held in Knoxville. Our past year had been so successful financially that we became almost boastful in telling of it. Our very capable finance chairman, Mrs. Lester Hammer, had carefully planned and carried through two money making schemes and were we proud of her and of our bank book!

Maybe we were a little reluctant to part with the huge sum of $40.00 to pay for the rental of a fair booth in September, 1950. But with her ability to see ahead, plan, and work, work, work, we became fired with ambition and enthusiasm. Plants for display, and plants and leaves to sell were donated by members. Mr. C. H. Thompson, husband of a member made us a miniature window and shelves and Esther Bussell made us an organdy curtain for it. Everyone brought her prettiest containers and for one week we worked in teams on day and night shifts to make it a success. Leaves were sold for 35 cents each. Plants were priced according to size, age, condition and bloom. Everything sold out like the proverbial hot cakes.

Members were soon stripping their window shelves and plants for more to sell. And the questions we answered! We found the public so eager to learn how to grow African violets that we evolved the idea of an educational table, but I will tell you more about that later

Our good friends, Mayo Brothers Feed and Seed Stores, helped us in our booth and supplied various packages of the essentials for violet growers. Packages of Vermiculite, Hyponex, Optox, soil, and pamphlets were displayed on a table, along with a small plastic green house belonging to a member. We were given a few hundred mimeographed copies of instructions on how to grow African violets and these were given out in less than an hour, but the requests came in for copies for the rest of the week. Questions about diseases, soil, and sprays were answered to the best of our ability. We were hoarse and tired when the week was over, but so proud of having had our booth acclaimed a drawing card for the fair. Actually we felt we were in the middle of the midway. Did we make any money? Ahem! Just $121 clear!

For a month we just relaxed and planned how to spend our money. We investigated needy families and various charitable organizations, and became so enthusiastic that we decided we could have more fun if we had more money to spend. Mrs. Hammer again came forth with a successful money making scheme.

Above, Mrs. Hahn and Mrs. Hammer.
Below, Mrs. Patrick, Mrs. Deal and Mrs. Johnson.

"Girl" exhibit at benefit party.

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On October 18, we had our Benefit Card Party and violet exhibit at Whittle Springs Hotel. There were fifty tables for bridge and canasta. Candy, small violet plants and leaves were sold. Mrs. Charles Shults and Mrs. Nelle Cunningham enlarged upon the idea of an educational table started at the fair and demonstrated various methods of rooting and growing plants. Merchants and other friends donated prizes and articles to be sold. Members made candy to be sold and others gave small plants and leaves. Even the weather man was generous with a lovely autumn day with golden maple leaves drifting lazily down outside the windows to make beautiful contrast for our violets.

Our Exhibits were arranged around the club room. One table featured violets in novelty containers. One was a display of girl violets with miniature dolls dressed as girls in hooped pastel dresses. Another display was a farmyard scene with various animal containers of violets, including a hired man doll with a patch on his trousers. Still another display showed a park scene with a miniature swimming pool, swing etc. surrounded by huge violet plants in full bloom. There were several exhibits of violets classified as to color and these brought forth "ohs" and sighs from our guests.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the bridge and canasta, but eyes were seen to stray back to the violet exhibit. This venture as I have said was highly successful, netting us $160.00. We now had enough money to carry on our club and charity work as we had planned. We allotted $75.00 for our needy family and donated $25.00 to a boy's club.

Having successfully completed the projects described above we naturally faced our April show with confidence. The curtain has now been rung down on that show and I can report that it too was a success. Mrs. J. P. Deal carefully picked her chairmen and everyone worked. The educational feature again proved interesting to the public. Displays of pictures from the African Violet Magazine were used to show diseases of plants. Disease control was explained and many questions were answered. Posters showing soil mixtures, fertilizers, and watering methods were eye catching. This was a most complete display -- even to a glass jar of tired little springtails!!

There was a woodland scene with violets in a natural setting. A table of new varieties brought sighs of envy from members and guests alike. There was a display for non-members. Other clubs also entered

Cont. on page 59

Activities of the - - -

African Violet Club of Montreal

An article entitled "African Violets," by Helen Van Pelt Wilson, in the Women's Day Magazine in November, 1948 was partly responsible for the founding of the now flourishing African Violet Club of Montreal.

One evening in May 1949, a group of ladies were working in their garden plot in the Notre Dame de Grace Garden Park and talk was turned to African violets. The possibility of a local club was discussed, with the result that the President of the West End Horticulture Society appointed Mrs. L. H. Davies and Mrs. G. A. Goddard as co-chairmen towards starting a group for those interested in African violets.

A meeting was called June 8, 1949 under the sponsorship of the West End Horticulture Society and the African Violet Club of Montreal was formed, with the following officers elected:

President,	Mrs. L. H. Davies
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. G. H. Robinson
Secretary,	Mrs. H. D. Hunting
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. E. Robinson
Show Convenor,	Mrs. L. H. Hardy

At this meeting fifteen active members were present.

At the first fall meeting, October 19, 1949 approximately one hundred seventy-five persons came to hear an address by Mrs. F. G. Copeland of Port Credit, Ontario. Her enthusiasm must have been contagious, as fifteen new members were added to the club.

At the December meeting in 1949, the club was able to collect and donate about sixty blooming plants for the Veterans of the Queen Mary Hospital.

The first Show was held in James A. Ovilvys beautiful Tudor Hall. Over twenty three hundred attended the two short days.

The president and members of the African Violet Club of Montreal with some of the plants which they distributed at Christmas to veterans of Queen Mary Veteran's Hospital.

(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PIGEON EDITOR

Dear Pigeon Members:

Help! It is time again for me to compile my hints for this column. They are all too few. Have all you gals (and guys) run out of good ideas? Are we beginning to be "know it alls' or something? Anyway, some of the Pigeons that have been making the rounds contain very little constructive information on violets. Many of them have just become the means of a little cross country gossip. Does anyone want a fudge recipe? I have it. Maybe you like chocolate cake. Well -- so do I. (Look at my picture). However, -- these have no place in a Pigeon devoted to violets. Good down to earth African violet information is all too scarce. I know many of you do things every day that the other person might not have thought of. Regardless of what it is -- send it along in your Pigeon. If it appears to be logical, worthwhile and not previously mentioned, I will pass it along in my column with your name as contributor. It takes a lot of time also a strain on overworked eyes (I often must use a magnifying glass) to read some of the things that belong in personal mail. Many directors have felt Pigeons were not

HELEN POCHUREK

14225 McCracken Rd.,

Cleveland, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

worthwhile for the reason that many will not stick to the subject at hand -- AFRICAN VIOLETS.

Also, many directors are not instructing the last member on the list to send the Pigeons on to me. I need and appreciate all the help and hints I can get to make this column one that you will look forward to reading. Some of you who do not belong to Pigeons might have an idea up your sleeve too. How about sending it on to me. You'll find my address in the front of the magazine and with my picture on this page.

Thanks a million, I know you will not let me down.

Sincerely yours,
Helen Pochurek

Begin grooming your plants when they have but four leaves. Remove all weak and misshapen leaves at once. Your plants will be show plants when they are still quite small. All the strength will go to make good foliage. It is much better to treat each and every plant as a possible show plant, rather than wait until just before a show to start grooming.

Hulda Evans, Columbus, Ohio

When defrosting the refrigerator, save the pure distilled water from the melting ice. Warm it, of course. Leaves can be rooted or plants watered with it.

Roswell Johnson, Calif. Unit 17

Mix African violet seed with a table spoon of fine sand or vermiculite. Mix well and place in a salt shaker. Much easier to get a uniform coverage of seed than otherwise.

Your Editor

To root leaves fast: Cut leaf with ½ inch petiole. Slit petiole and ½ in. of leaf. Bury in sand or vermiculite up to top of slit. You will get more plants also.

Dalene Rhodes, Atlanta, Ga.

It is often a problem to properly shade plants on glass shelves at your windows. Very often, when adjusting shade or curtain, leaves become broken. This works fine, if you can use it where you live. On the OUTSIDE of your windows, place 4 hooks, on either side of top and bottom of window.

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Homing Pigeon
Membership Manager

If you wish to join a group, or if you wish to withdraw from one, please communicate with Mrs. Canner.

Attach to hooks and pull over window when shade is needed. Being on the outside, you will not touch your plants.

Anna Layson, Unit 119

To clean clay pots, I soak them in my laundry tubs in a heavy solution of Climalene or other water softener and very hot water. Let soak for a few days, drain water off. Use fresh water and Dreft suds. The heavy incrustation will come off very easily with a brush or steel wool. Rinse them in boiling water and they are ready for use.

Helen MacMahon, Macedonia, Ohio

You can grow plants from your flower stems, just like you do your leaves. Many times the plants will form before roots come.

Edith Mackey, Calif. Unit 57

Many people are very much concerned when an occasional leaf becomes brown, transparent or jelly-like. I do not think it is cause for concern. Nature provides a way for every plant, shrub and tree to lose its leaves at some time or other. How else can an African violet lose it's leaves, unless they were deliberately picked off, of course nature did not intend for a plant to hold every leaf from propagation to old age.

Your Editor

Instead of using tinfoil or wax on rim of pot, try making a collar of the wax carton of milk.

Edith Mackey, Calif. Unit 57

Did you ever have a large plant that was too awkward to handle and so refrained from washing it? If so-and its very dusty, wait for a nice, soft, warm, gentle rain and place outdoors in a protected spot. It will do it a world of good, besides making it clean and healthy looking. Place in a warm place to dry off.

Your Editor

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET BOOK

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QUESTION BOX

Cont. from page 45

pollinate, I simply loaded every blooming plant I had with seed pods, and not a plant died. A few stopped blooming while the seed pods were forming, but the others kept on blooming.

Mrs. Raymond Delgardo, Kans.

Sucker Plants

To Mrs. Frank E. Whiting, Mass.

If you will prick out your "suckers" when they are tiny "mouse ears" you will keep your plants perfect without the bother of removing large "suckers," and your plants will not stop blooming. In fact they will bloom more abundantly. Look your plants over every few days and pick these tiny little side leaves out with a tooth pick.

Mrs. Raymond Delgardo, Kans.

THE SECRETARY REPORTS

The Fifth Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. was held on April 28, 1951 in the Dayton Biltmore Hotel as the final meeting of the seven held during the 1951 Convention. The President of the Society, Mrs. Arthur Radtke, presided.

The minutes of the 1950 business meeting were read and approved as read.

The Treasurer's Report was read and discussed. Due to the fact that three Treasurers served during 1950, necessitating multiple auditing, the report as submitted was complex and is, therefore, not reproduced here.

Important figures from it are:

Balance in Treasury, Jan. 1, 1950	$3,027.57
Balance in Treasury, Jan. 1, 1951	$6,395.94
Balance in Treas. Mar. 31, 1951	$10,017.30

The Resolutions Committee submitted a report thanking all persons who had participated in Convention arrangements or Convention program.

The Publications Editor, Mrs. Wright, made a brief report. The high light was that when present stocks of back copies of the Magazine become exhausted no more will be made available by re-printing.

The Scientific Committee reported on the successful completion of the first year of the Research Program at Ohio State University. Research work will be continued next year and probably expanded due to appropriation by the Board of up to two thousand dollars for research purposes.

The Registration Committee briefly reported. Three important clarifications of registration procedure, as approved by action of the Board, were included:

1. Extension of the registration plan to cover name reservation also.
2. Requiring that a brief description of each plant, mentioning points of superiority, must accompany each Registration Application.
3. Setting the minimum number of successive vegetative reproductions before Registration at two, i. e., a new plant (whether seedling, sport, mutation, or etc.) must be reproduced twice by cuttings before an Application for Registration can be received on it.

A brief summary of Board actions in the series of meeting during the Convention was read. Matters covered were:

1. Clarification of Society prizes to be awarded at local and national shows, and other awards.
2. Division of the seedling class at future National Shows into "first generation" and "proven by two reproductions" groups.
3. Acceptance of the Chicago invitation to hold the 1952 Convention there.
4. Acceptance of the Judging Report as submitted by Mrs. Carey.
5. Acceptance of the Research Committee Report and appropriation of up to two thousand dollars for research next year.
6. Clarification of registration procedures, as reported above.
7. Approval of local Club affiliation as Chapters of the National Society on payment of $2.50 fee and having 25% National membership.
8. Empowering the Editor and Advertising Manager to set advertising rates.
9. Recognition of need for a "Committee on Time and Place" to plan for future conventions.
10. Approval of design for a binder for the Magazine.
11. Deferment of any action on a Society pin until further investigation.
12. Approval of design for a Society seal.

The Nominating Committee nominated these officers for 1952:

President,	Floyd L. Johnson
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. W. P. Dahnke
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. E. G. Magill
Rec. Secty.,	Neil C. Miller
Corres. Secty.,	Mrs. George R. Klewe
Treasurer,	Boyce M. Edens
Membership Secty.,	Mrs. Earl Mutchner

All were elected.

At the close of the business meeting proper Mr. Edens addressed the gathering briefly on "Where Do We Go From Here?"

Recording Secretary

Neil C. Miller

HOTEL SHERMAN LOCATED IN THE HEART OF No. 1 CONVENTION CITY

Chicago may be the second largest city in the country, but it's the "Number One" convention city of the nation, and rising majestically out of the heart of the famous "loop" is the Hotel Sherman, located in the very center of a city that boasts better than a three-million population.

From the famous structure located at Clark and Randolph streets, the Hotel Sherman is the hub of hundreds of activities in the city and the central point from which to reach them.

As for restaurant atmosphere and the top choice in foods, they are offered right in the Hotel Sherman. There is the beautiful Well of the Sea, specializing in seafood and "bottom of the sea" beauty. The College Inn Porterhouse, inspired by the late Ernest Byfield, was opened in October 1950. Specializing in steaks, it is one of the most beautiful and unusual rooms in the country, following a modern West decor.

Outside of the hotel and within walking distances are the many movies and theatres offering the latest in stage plays, and a shopping district along State Street, a boulevard of the finest shops in the nation.

Also within walking distance of the hotel, one can reach beautiful Lake Michigan, dotted with yachts and beautifully sanded beaches.

Right from the Hotel Sherman, a sightseeing bus can be boarded for many tours throughout the vast city. A drive along the Lake Shore, overcast with one of the world's most beautiful skylines, is breathtaking.

The "Drive" reaches for miles along the lakefront, worming its way south into the heart of the steel industry or north into Chicago's beautiful suburbs of wide, quiet streets, into the residential district of beautiful homes in outlying Evanston, the home of Northwestern University; Winnetka, where the famous Bahai Temple is located; Lake Forest, Highland Park, Lake Bluff, Deerfield and many other suburbs.

In sports, Chicago has them all. The Windy City is the home of the Chicago Cubs of the National League and the Chicago White Sox of the American League. Every sport is offered in season, while famous Soldier's Field, also within a short distance of the Hotel Sherman, plays host annually to high school and professional football games, automobile racing, circuses, track meets and the big civic events of the city.

Other places to visit and a "must" during a trip to Chicago is the world famous Buckingham Fountain on the lakefront; the Merchandise Mart, boasting the largest office floor space of any building in the United States; Adler Planetarium, the Art Institute, Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago Historical Society, Chicago Natural History Museum, Museum of Science and Industry, Oriental Institute, Shedd Aquarium, Garfield Park Conservatory, Lincoln Park Conservatory, Brookfield Zoo, Lincoln Zoo, and hundreds of other points of interest.

Transportation facilities in Chicago are among the best; while one of the most important things to remember for the visitor who wishes to walk, Chicago is probably the most simply laid out city of the nation, being bordered on the East by Lake Michigan.

WORK PAYS OFF . .

Cont. from page 52

plants. Oak Ridge Violet Club had a delightful miniature window filled with tiny containers of violets. New plants, old plants, pretty arrangements and all breath taking. There were 213 entries.

Awards went to Mrs. Kate Patrick for best plant in the show, to Mrs. Lloyd D. Johnson for most blue ribbons in show, to Mrs. C. W. Jenkins for best arrangement, and to Mrs. H. D. Paine for best non-member entry. Our gracious neighbors Mrs. A. B. Bowman, Mrs. D. J. Mahagen and Mrs. John Murray of Oak Ridge were the judges. Mrs. Elmer Cox and Mrs. D. S. Turner were judges for non-members.

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Des Moines, Iowa

PRACTICAL METHODS OF CULTIVATION AND SHIPPING

Cont. from page 27

they are reluctant to make an adjustment. They like double shipping cartons that have shavings or sawdust as an extra packing medium. Rev. Ulery told us that air freight is a good method by which to ship.

Mrs. Yoars was the third speaker, saying that they are really retailers. She suggested that everyone stick to his method of growing and his own soil formula, watering, fertilizer, etc. The Yoars Nursery selects for propagation the best, healthiest and most vigorous leaves from plants that have been watched for good habit of growth. To help get a good uniform plant, Mrs. Yoars says the plant should be turned one-quarter turn every time the plant is watered. When selecting a plant from which to propagate, be sure it is free of root diseases or insects; choose a leaf in its prime, crisp and in good growing condition, not cracked in leaf or petiole. She washes leaves in a "Dreft" bath, dipping them up and down several times, to be sure they are free of dust and insects. She propagates in soil and pots that have been sterilized, two leaves to a pot. This saves labor by one shift and is usually a quicker method. She waters very sparingly at first and until roots are formed. Heat is provided under their benches, but the plants are given very little light. Plantlets are grown this way until they are a good size, then divided and the old leaf destroyed, and the new plants are reset in good soil. This gives a good root system. The Yoars' have metal pans that hold about one hundred pots, which are sterilized with boiling water. They feel sodium selenate will control almost any insect that attacks African violets. N. N. O. R. is also recommended, although it will spot flowers when used as a spray. N. N. O. R. should be used twice a week if plants are infested. This nursery does not raise many seedlings. They ship by parcel post, and if it is necessary to file a claim, they prefer to file it.

Mr. Rockelmann, (Fischer's), has been growing African violets for sixteen years. He told us that they propagate about the same as the other commercial growers, using strong plants from which medium-sized leaves are selected. Petioles are cut three-fourths of an inch long and inserted in vermiculite in benches. No chemical is used to treat the cuttings. He prefers to pot the cuttings when just rooted, does not

split them until they are ready to come out of the small pots. He uses two potting mixtures, one for the young plants, of half muck and half vermiculite; the other for older plants is made up of muck, vermiculite and well rotted manure. He gives all the light possible without bleaching the plants, feeling that it helps the plants to bud and bloom. When necessary, he uses cloth shading. Watering is done as often as necessary, depending on the weather, by the overhead method, using warm water, and if done at the proper time, leaves do not spot.

Mr. Rockelmann says cool growing conditions produce better plants and blooms, but the growth is slower. His night temperatures vary from 60° to 65°, according to the weather and time of year. Summer is the most difficult time, when dampness causes some trouble. Day temperatures run from 70° to 75°. He uses a liquid fertilizer, according to directions given for the particular brand used. On smaller plants, a weaker solution is used. He cautions against over-fertilizing. He uses a parathion bomb to avoid insect infestation. He feels Fermate does a good job as a fumigant. He does not use sodium selenate. Steam is the method used to sterilize soil. His company sells either wholesale or retail, and prefers to ship by air express, giving extra plants to help cover the added cost.

Their seed is sown in new azalea pans in a sterilized mixture of muck and vermiculite. The mixture is moist and the seeds are sown on top of the mix and covered with a piece of glass. Watering is done by sub-irrigating -- setting pan in water until moisture shows on top of soil.
Some of the questions asked and the replies are as follows:

Q. Is there a double pink?
A. (Rev. Ulery). Not that I know of.

Q. Do hormones, etc., cause mutations?
A. Rev. Ulery says he gets some results with colchicine.

Q. Is N. N. O. R. available?
A. (Mrs. Yoars). Yes. Use it 2 teaspoons to 1 gallon and immerse the affected plants.

Q. How do commercial growers get such large flowers?
A. Because of their ideal greenhouse conditions.

Q. What is the difference between a sport, mutation and a hybrid?
A. Sports and mutants are the same and generally propagate true. A hybrid is made by crossing two varieties of saintpaulias, sowing the seed, and the plant resulting is a hybrid.

Q. Should sodium selenate or parathion be used by an inexperienced person in the home?
A. Both are dangerous, but parathion should never be used.

Q. What proportion of sodium selenate do you use?
A. (Mr. Peterson). 1/2 gram to 2 gallons of water.

Q. Will sodium selenate affect garden soil so that vegetables should not be grown in it?
A. Yes, for seven years or more.

Q. Does sodium selenate slow up plant growth?
A. Yes.

Q. How often does a mutant appear?
A. About once in 10,000 plants.

Q. Define a mutant or sport.
A. A mutant is a structural change in leaf structure, such as BLUE GIRL. A sport is generally a change in the color of the flower. There is only a slight difference.

Q. How do you water from the bottom of pans?
A. (Mrs. Yoars). Put about one-eighth inch of water in the pan and leave it until the plants absorb it.

Q. Do suckers bloom?
A. Yes.

Q. Do you use selenate more than once?
A. Use it once every two months.

Q. Do you use fermate full strength on cuttings?
A. Yes, but just a light dusting.

Q. Should compost be sterilized?
A. If it is your own, definitely.

Q. How many generations should a plant be propagated before naming?
A. Three or four.

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HOW TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS

Cont. from page 35

where you plan to put it. If the container is of metal, paint the inside with asphalt paint.

Place a 2-inch layer of small pebbles on the bottom, and in one corner set a small empty porous pot. Place the pot on top of the layer of pebbles.

Next, place a 1-inch layer of coarse sand on top of the pebbles, flood it with water, and level it. After it is level, draw off excess water with a small rubber syringe or a grease skimmer. Draw the water out through the empty pot.

Place the potted plants (in porous pots) on top of the sand and press them very slightly into it to create contact. Build up sand around the outside of the pots, flood with water, and drain off the excess through the empty pot in the corner. This creates a seal around the pots. Vary the depth of the sand according to the dryness of your room; that is, in a dry room you would bank the sand close to the brim of the pots, in a moist climate or season, you would use less sand.

Water the pots the first time from the top to establish capillarity. Thereafter, water through the small empty pot, keeping the water level at the bottom of the pot, or, in other words, until the water starts to come through the drainage hole. Do not let it come any higher. Check and water daily.

When the soil on top of a pot becomes dry, water it from the top to establish capillarity. If a pot is taken out and replaced, both the capillary and the seal around the pot must be re-established by pouring water on the pot and the surrounding sand.

Water Condition

As explained in a previous chapter, water that is chemically pure is ideal for African violets. However, obtaining this in sufficient quantity to satisfy a thirsty collection of mature plants is sometimes a problem. Rain water and melted snow are perfect, but these sources can not be depended upon for a steady supply in most regions.

Most of us have to rely upon the water that runs out of the kitchen faucet, and in some localities it is not too friendly to African violets. If your tap water is hard, as it is in many areas in the Southwest, you

can correct it by adding an acidifier such as cider vinegar or one of the commercial preparations available at your nursery or garden store. If you use vinegar, add ½ ounce to a gallon of water; if you use an acidifier, follow the directions on the container. Water you plants with the acid solution about once every six weeks. If you have a large number of plants, you will probably find the acidifer cheaper than the vinegar.

If you do not know whether your water is hard, test it with litmus papers. It may be considered hard if it produces an alkaline reaction in the test papers.

In cities where water is chlorinated, draw it the day before and let it stand twenty-four hours before using.

Vacation Watering

If you are going to be away for a week or two, you can leave your plants at home with piece of mind if you make some simple provisions for them to "water" themselves while you are away.

Here are three tested methods to slow down the drying out:

1. Soak some bricks in a tub of water overnight, then drain out water until surface is an inch below the top surface of the bricks. Water your potted plants, and set them on top of the bricks, close together. This scheme is reported to keep the soil moist for two weeks.
2. Saturate several thicknesses of newspapers, water you potted plants, and set them on top of the papers, placing them close together. This too should keep your plants fresh for a couple of weeks.
3. Sink your pots to the rim in a packing of wet sand or sawdust. Saturate the packing and water the potted plants. This method should keep your plants fresh for three to six weeks.

It is important that the room in which the plants are left be well ventilated. Otherwise, crown rot or mildew will result from all this moisture.

Washing Violets

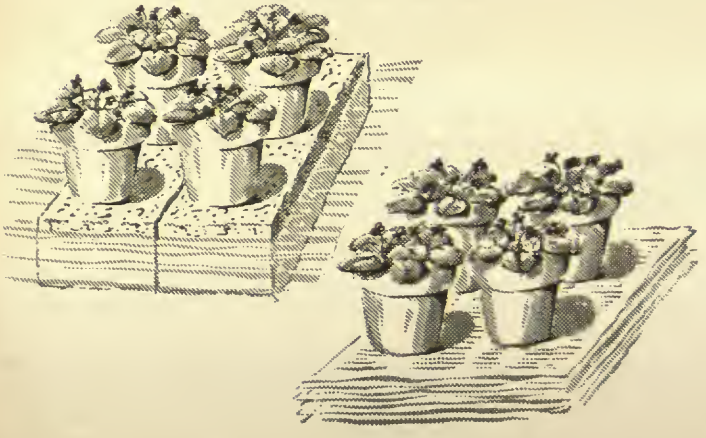
You may have been told that you must never get any water on the leaves of an African violet. Don't believe it. Washing them when they get dusty is just as good for them as it is for you. In their native habitat the rainfall is above 70 inches a year.

This is what you should remember about washing them: always use warm water and do not stand them in a draft or let the sun shine on the leaves while wet. If you chance to sprinkle them with cold water, or water that is even slightly cooler than room temperature, their leaves will develop ring spots.

The plants should be rinsed until the water washes all the dust off the leaves. The simplest way to wash a few plants is to hold them one at a time under the warm water faucet, tipping them sideways so the water strikes the center of the plants and runs outward, and turning them so all the leaves will be washed. Use a fairly gentle stream and take care that the water does not get too warm. Afterwards, place them in a warm dry spot, away from sun and drafts, until the leaves dry out.

A spray attachment, such as the kind you can attach to the mixing faucet on your kitchen sink, is a handy device for washing violets.

Once every two weeks, spray with an insecticide. See the chapter on pests and diseases for recommended sprays.



Soaked bricks or newspapers will hold water, keep plants moist during vacation.

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Patronize local violet sellers who handle any of these products. The supplies that they don't carry are available by mail from me.

Write for complete price list. It includes many things besides those shown above.

NEIL C. MILLER

Layton's Lake

PENNS GROVE, N. J.

THE SHOW

Cont. from page 23

Mrs. Ruth Yoars also exhibited Bi-Color. Vera Mae has large scalloped leaves though not girl type. The flower is orchid. Periwinkle has dark green foliage with very red reverse or leaf and the flower is light blue. White Lady had good foliage with broad leaf and heavier than most white ladies we have seen (speaking of African violets of course). Red Beauty had medium dark green leaves and dark veins. The flower is a very nice bright wine red. Lavender Pink has large heavy quilted foliage with true light lavender flowers. R-10 has girl foliage and red flowers.

We step to the next exhibit which is Fischers of Atlantic City, New Jersey. Here we found Paul Rockelman in charge. The lovely mature plants of Fringettes were displayed again. They come in Dark Blue, Light Blue (to me it is even brighter than Norseman) Red Lavender, Blue Lavender, Mauvette and Pure White. The flowers are curly at the edge and the foliage is fringed. My Lady Marion has slightly girl foliage and the flower is medium blue. Blue Rosette is very double and large though not as large as Apollo. The flowers are medium blue. Light Lavender Rosette was a lavender double and except for color of flowers a twin to Blue Rosette. They both had many flowers. Mrs. Alma Wright, named for the editor of our magazine, was a beautiful double white. We agree it had to be something special to carry that name. The foliage is good and heavy with the edge of the leaves deeply serrated. It blooms in nice clusters. This one was for the future too as was another attractive single white. Brussels Sprouts is certainly unusual. It seemed it just couldn't make up its mind which part was to be flower and which foliage. The large double flower was both dark blue and green. I'm sorry not to remember the foliage but I couldn't get past those flowers. Needless to say, it attracted much attention! Tear Drop is that miniature double with the little light blue roses I loved so last year. The plant does stay small and now has been released. Petite is another small semi-double with red reverse to the leaves. The flowers are medium blue.

On the other side of the room was an Educational Exhibit, an important part of any flower show. Small plants grown from seeds were shown, also leaf propagation. Other plants of the same family as our

saintpaulia (still African violets to most of us) were on exhibit. These included Gloxinias, Isolomas, Episcias and Calumnea. Both Helen Van Pelt Wilson's book, "The African Violet," and Mary Margaret Odom's book "Handbook for Growing African Violets" were on the education table as were various plant foods. In fact just about everything you need to grow African violets was accounted for there.

In the next room Naglers of Marietta, Georgia had a display of African violets with a large arrangement of plants as a point of interest. Here we again saw Fantasy so hard to describe because the colors are rarely the same on any two petals. The flowers may be described as lavender with purple markings or visa-versa. The foliage is medium green. Bronze Girl had a purple flower though we have only seen it with red flowers. The girl type foliage is dark red on the reverse side, giving the leaves a bronze effect. Variegated Red Girl had medium and light green variegated foliage. Marmorata Supreme had dark green leaves, red reverse and the flower was cupped. Maronetta has girl type foliage with light blue flower, known to many of us as one of the many different Sailor Girls, and du Pont No. 5 is one of the lovely du Ponts with very light blue flowers. Admiration is a large white very much like White Amazon. Miniature Sapphire is the same, rather lighter than medium blue with a slightly darker center as Sapphire but this time in a miniature form. Cinderella has heavy quilted foliage with flowers perhaps more pink than orchid.

Mrs. Geo. Gross of Clayton, Ohio exhibited seven different plants or varieties of Episcias. With the red and orange flowers we still have hope of those flowers on a saintpaulia.

Martha Mears had Streptocarpus in pink, blue and white. These Martha grew from seeds but does not have any Streptocarpus for sale!! (This requested to save time on correspondence and disappointment.) The Isolomas and Trichosporum were very lovely. Perhaps the owner will write an article on them as we are all interested. All these plants are of the Gesneriaceae family and they are a challenge as well as fun to grow with African violets.

Most assuredly I have missed some very good plants in the show for which I apologize. Notes were taken when time permitted and sometimes looking over anothers shoulder; by daylight and artificial light but under any circumstances they were all well worth seeing.

We are indebted to those who brought plants that we may enjoy them, to those who brought better known varieties that we might see them correctly labelled, as well as the new introductions and those for the future. Our beloved Nelle Berst, Convention Chairman and her committee worked very hard that we may enjoy the Convention and we vote them an "A plus" for their effort and the result. It is our sincere hope you join us at the 1952 Convention in Chicago, Illinois next spring.

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INVISIBLE ENEMIES

Cont. from page 32

associated in the later stages, are initiated by nematodes.

Of course, not all fungi and bacteria are harmful. Except for such relatively giant fungi as the mushrooms, puffballs and a few others, they like the bacteria are microscopic organisms. They exist in multitudinous variety and number as part of the normal organic matter of the soil. They break down the remains of dead plants and animals whose substance then becomes usable again to nourish living ones. They contribute materially to soil fertility. Many of the fungi have, however, abandoned this useful role in nature and have become parasitic on other organisms - plants, animals, and even man. Some are exclusively parasitic and can not exist except on a living host; others practice the free enterprise system at times, but go on a dole and live on more independent organisms whenever environmental conditions are favorable for this microbiological piracy. They are opportunists.

Of the fungi that have been recorded on African violets - and they are few indeed, considering the voluminous cultivation of this plant - only the surface mildew fungus, which causes white, powdery patches on the leaves, and sometimes the flowers, especially of double varieties, belongs to the group of obligate parasites. The others exist part of the time on dead plant remains, but on occasion invade living tissues too, either consuming them chemically or poisoning them so that part or all of the plant dies. Among the fungi that I have found actually occurring on sickly African violets, the following, listed by name, have been most frequent: Fusarium, Rhizoctonia, Phytophthora (unfortunately most fungi have no common English names, hence these Latin terms must be used to identify them). Several different species of Fusarium and at least three kinds of Phytophthora have been found on decaying violet roots. Furthermore, representative strains of these fungi have proved capable, when a pure culture was placed in contact with a healthy violet crown, of causing a severe form of crown rot. One Fusarium and one strain of Rhizoctonia solani were particularly damaging, rotting all the leaf stalks off at the base. Besides these, a species of Verticillium, which causes a wilt disease of many kinds of garden plants, but which I have not yet found on a naturally diseased African violet, is able to cause crown rot

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when it is artificially inoculated. And at least one of the many kinds of Pythium - fungi that cause damping-off and root-rot of many kinds of plants - can attack and destroy violet seedlings and "babies".

Where do these predators come from? They are likely to be present in any soil that has been used for cultivating plants, either in greenhouses or out of doors. The longer the soil has been used for plant culture, the more likely it is to harbor some of these disease-producing fungi. Even composted sod - a favorite source of good soil for greenhouse plant culture - is not assuredly free of dangerous organisms, for one of the most damaging of turf diseases, brown patch, is caused by Rhizoctonia which, as mentioned above, can also cause crown rot of violets. Prolonged composting is, however, a means of getting rid of many disease organisms for, in the absence of their preferred hosts and in competition with the normal soil organisms, the parasitic species tend to die out. The only real insurance against trouble from soil-borne parasites is soil disinfection, or as it is sometimes called, soil sterilization. Actually we neither try nor wish to sterilize the soil, for this would impair its fertility; we only want to get rid of the disease-producers.

It so happens that none of the chemical treatments that have come into use recently for freeing soil of animal pests, such as sodium selenate for mites, and methyl bromide, ethylene dibromide, D-D, and perhaps Parathion, for nematodes, are efficient fungicides in addition. Heating the soil to a temperature that will kill both animal and fungus pests is a practicable general remedy, however. The simplest way to accomplish this is to heat the soil in a pressure cooker, or on a rack suspended above boiling water in a covered vessel, such as a wash boiler or large kettle. The soil can be treated right in the pots (except plastic pots)! where it is to be used, or in cans, baskets, or cloth bags - anything that will keep the soil in and let the heat through. Although it has generally been stated that the soil must be heated to 180° F. for a full hour in order to disinfect it, actually there is little reason to exceed 140° for 30 minutes, since this will destroy all nematodes and most of the parasitic fungi that are likely to be encountered. Prolonged and excessive heating is detrimental to the physical structure of the soil, and also produces chemical changes that make the soil toxic unless it is well aerated and leached several times with water. In general, exposing 2 to 3-inch pots for 20 minutes, 4-inch pots for 30 minutes, and 5 to 6-inch pots about

1 hour, over boiling water in a covered vessel is ample "sterilization". By the use of a pressure cooker set at 10 pounds, these periods can be halved. This treatment is good insurance against any of the invisible soilborne enemies that attack the saintpaulia.

Fastidious cultivators may, however, object to the bother and in particular the odor of heating soil. For them, we suggest the use of chemical fumigants, such as methyl bromide and ethylene dibromide. The use of the former in sealed ampules, originally prepared for delousing soldiers' apparel and blankets but now marketed commercially, is described by Dr. Smith in the companion article on insect pests. Ethylene dibromide, which has heretofore been available only as a liquid fumigant, is now sold in the form of gelatin capsules containing just enough chemical to treat approximately ½ cubic foot or about 30 pounds of soil. These need only to be inserted into the soil mass after proper moistening, which is then kept in a covered vessel for about 2 weeks, to free it of nematodes and insects.

To be sure, this may not affect parasitic fungi appreciably, but if these hidden enemies are really dependent upon nematodes to give them their destructive start, the elimination of the nematodes should pretty well check the fungi. At any rate it will be an interesting experiment to make.

We have not discoursed on mistakes of culture, such as overwatering, defective soil drainage, and chilling, as predisposing factors in root and crown rot. Such factors may indeed be the starting point of this trouble, but are not invariably so. Crown rot may sometimes, and with great suddenness, attack your most carefully nurtured plant. It is wise to know your enemies, especially the invisible ones, and destroy them before they ever get a good start.

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ACTIVITIES OF MONTREAL CLUB

Cont. from page 55

The club was honoured by the presence of Her Excellency Lady Alexander, wife of Canada's Governor General, who was presented with a plant, Purple Prince, as a memento, grown by the vice-president.

At the beginning of this year membership totaled over two hundred.

The 1950-1951 season, under the presidency of Mrs. W. L. Hardy has been one of continued growth and interest. Among the programmes at the regular meetings were practical demonstrations on the growth and culture of saintpaulia, a leaf growing contest for beginners, an illustrated lecture by Henry Ten Hagen and the distribution of many varied pamphlets pertaining to African violets.

Six members attended the Fifth Annual African Violet Society Convention in Dayton. The two chief activities have been the Christmas distribution of African violets to the Veterans Hospitals and the annual Spring Exhibition. Two hundred and fifty gaily wrapped pots of plants in full bloom were delivered by members to the Queen Mary Veterans Hospital in Montreal and an additional two hundred and fifty to the St. Anne's Military Hospital. It was heart warming to see the eagerness and interest of the patients in selecting plants for themselves and their friends.

Nearly two thousand people visited our second Annual Show held on May 17, and 18, 1951 which opened with a preview and tea attended by growers, representatives of garden clubs, civic officials and members of the press. Five non-competitive displays were shown, which were an education in the new and different varieties, which have resulted from cross pollination. The first display, entered by Mrs. Hardy featured over sixty varieties. Effectively arranged behind a low picket fence, it attracted much attention. Mrs. L. H. Davies presented a beautiful corner exhibit with Blue Warrior, Double Sea Girl and a Double Mauve among her plants.

Mrs. Buck, The Botanical Gardens, and Richard Scott featured colorful displays of plants liberally covered with bloom. In the competitive class, the "Bill Pascoe Cup" for the best plant in the show was won by Mrs. H. H. Pick, who at eighty years of age is the oldest member of the club. Her "Gorgeous Bi-Color" was an outstanding specimen. The prize for the highest aggregate was won by Mrs. G. H. Robinson. It was remarkable to note the improvement in only one year in the quality, and form of the plants exhibited by all members. The club is keeping a scrapbook which has proved of great interest to both members and visitors.

After a most successful season, which closed with a membership of over two hundred and fifty, we believe ourselves to be one of the largest African Violet Clubs.

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SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

Cont. from page 31

A study of the basic kinds of African violets, the species, is desirable. The species are usually found growing in isolated areas. They do not all grow under the same conditions and probably do not require the same amounts of light, water and nutrients necessary for their best growth, bud formation and development.

When Adalbert E. W. R. LeTanneur von Saintpaul-Illaire was walking through the coastal woods near Tanga in 1892, he probably did not realize the great interest his discovery of the African violet was about to create. Although history does not record that his wife Marguerite accompanied him at the time of his find, it seems to indicate that this is the case. They must have discovered this lovely plant while strolling together in the beautiful coastal forest.

May we have the house lights out please . . .

And now the first slide please . . .

Adalbert sent plants to his father in the summer of 1892. This is copy of a photograph of his father. Ulrich M. LeTanneur von Saintpaul-Illaire. You will note that his last name is hyphenated. This is because it was customary fo. Germans of noble birth to attach their wife's name to theirs if their wife was also of noble birth. After Ulrich received plants form his son Adalbert, he took them to Herman Wendland, a German botanist. Mr. Wendland apparently noticed that they had not previously been described in botanical literature and so he described the plants and named the genus Saintpaulia in honor of the family of Ulrich L. T. von Saintpaul-Illaire. A part of his German description translated tells you what he thought of the Usambara violet, a name which he suggested. Quote: "Because of its enhancing beauty I would call this plant one of the daintiest hot-house plants which have been introduced in the last years".

Let us pause to take a look at another slide.

The next slide please . . .

Here we have a photograph of a coastal mist forest similar to the region in which **Saintpaulia ionantha** was discovered.

The next slide please . . .

This is a photo of **Saintpaulia ionantha** probably first gathered at Amboni near Tanga and about 5 degrees west and five

miles inland. Here on large rocks of crystalline-limestone the plants may be found growing today on small ledges and crevices where humus has collected. Only towards evening does the sun for a very short time, strike the rocks as they face north. The area is nearly at sea level

The next slide please . . .

Here you'll see a seedling of **Saintpaulia ionantha** showing its red or nearly red foliage on the under surface of the leaves thus proving that some of the old colored pictures of the African violet were not at all unrealistic as far as their color illustrations are concerned.

The next slide please . . .

In order to locate the African violet region we will take an imaginary airplane trip from Dayton, approximately here on the map, to East Africa . . . .

The next slide please . . .

This is a map of the African Continent. Please note the location of East Africa. The African violets were originally restricted to this area and are not native of South Africa.

The next slide please . . .

Now this is an East African section of the map you have just looked at.

The next slide please . . .

This map of Tanganyika shows the various kinds of vegetation. It is interesting to note that much of this part of Africa is not jungle. A large part of it is grass lands with an occasional tree found growing among the grass. We find remnants of once great forests. Large areas have been burned over for cultivation both by the natives and the European colonizers. There are at least two groups of mountains in which the African violets are found. The Usambara (oosambara) and the Uluguru Mts. (ooloogooroo). Here are the Usambara and here, the Uluguru.

The next slide please . . .

Here is a close up of the Usambara mountains I have just showed you. The brown areas are the forest regions.

The next slide please . . .

Now you are looking at a picture of a mist forest remnant of the Usambara Mts. Notice the type of rock found in association with the African violets (Gneiss).

The next slide please . . .

This shows a diagrammatic section of the Usambara mountains with the amounts of rainfall they receive and gives an indication of the types of forest.

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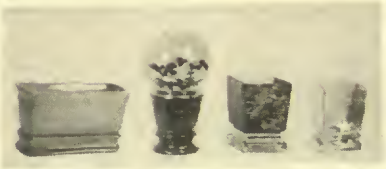

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The next slide please . . .

This is the Amani section of Tanganyika and it is from this area that the species **Saintpaulia amaniensis** is to be found.

The next slide please . . .

Here is an old photo showing a clearing in an evergreen rain forest near Amani. Notice the two German explorers and natives possibly on a plant collecting expedition.

The next slide please . . .

Now this is a photo of **Saintpaulia magungensis**, also found in the Amani area.

The next slide please . . .

Here you see what it looks like in color. It has a distinct branching stem which may be trained to grow upward supported by a stake or as you see it here, hanging over the side of the pot. This plant is four years old.

The next slide please . . .

Saintpaulia amaniensis is yet another species having a distinct stem. Please notice that the leaves are quite different from **S. magungensis.**

The next slide please . . . .

This is **Saintpaulia tongwensis** which was found about 35 miles S.W. of Tanga and 23 miles inland at 1700 feet. It used to grow on the crown of a small mountain until just recently when an archeologist cut all of the trees on the crown of the mountain Tongwe, so he could photograph the ruins of an old fort. By doing so he let the intense light on the African violets and killed them. Tongwensis grew among cycads and other dwarfish evergreens. (Conditions drier than any other known species).

The next slide please . . .

Here is a color slide of **Saintpaulia tongwensis**, the light green band is a characteristic of this species. It has a tendency to grow as a single crown.

The next slide please . . .

This is a location in the forests showing where **Saintpaulia grotei** thrives. It is very damp in this forest. S. **grotei** is found growing near Amani at about 3,000 feet. It flourishes near running water in dense shade.

The next slide please . . .

This is a plant of **Saintpaulia grotei.** It illustrated its distinct stems and shows how it may be grown when staked . . .

The next slide please . . .

This is a copy of a photograph showing S. **grotei's** manner of growth when allowed to hang over the sides of its container.

Te next slide please . . .

Here is **Saintpaulia grotei** in color. A few of the branches have been staked. Some of the leaves have been removed so you can better see its stem.

The next slide please . . .

This is **Saintpaulia orbicularis.** It is one of the most productive of all the species of African violets as far as flowers are concerned. It will be described in a future issue of the African violet magazine.

The next slide please . . .

Saintpaulia diplotricha grows at about 3,000 ft. on sacred Mt. Mlinga, an eastern outlier of the East Usambaras. We are now going to speed our imaginary plane to the south west to the Uluguru Mountains.

The next slide please . . .

This is a localized map of the Uluguru mountain area. At the south end of this mountain range in forests similar to those shown in the next slide two more of the species of African violets were discovered.

The next slide please . . .

Here is the edge of the forest area. Notice the tall grass.

The next slide please . . .

Here is the other species **Saintpaulia goetzeana.** Like S. **pusilla** it has not yet been introduced. It has small flowers nearly white and has dark green leaves. It grows on perpendicular rock faces in heavy shade in rain forest.

You have now seen either sketches or photographs of all of the described species of African violets so let us go back to the elder Mr. Saintpaul-Illaire for the moment. Mr. Ulrich Saintpaul-Illaire sold or gave plants of Saintpaulia ionantha to Mr. Fredrich Benary of the seed firm of Ernest Benary, Erfurt, Germany.

The next slide please . . .

This is a picture of Mr. Fredrich Benary and it is to him that we owe the distribution of the first African violet plants into Europe and America. He was the first hybridizer and had varieties which largely breed true from seed. The firm still offers some of these varieties today, although they may be difficult to obtain because the seed company is now in the Russian occupied area of Germany. He is largely responsible for the beginning of its popularity in America.

The next slide please . . . .

These are varieties of **S. ionantha.** The photo was taken from an early horticultural magazine. Note the color range in the African violets in 1903, the date of this publication.

The next slide please . . . .

This slide illustrates some of the present leaves forms and color of some of our present day varieties.

The next slide please . . . .

This shows some of our present-day range of colors in the varieties. Though cross pollination of the varieties with the newly introduced species it is possible to increase the leaf variation and habit of growth of future varieties to produce some really different varieties of Saintpaulia. Thank you.

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Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
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SANTA MONICA BAY SOCIETY

On April 10, 1951 the Santa Monica Bay Society of the African Violet Society had its installation of new officers serving for the ensuing year. Refreshments were served, consisting of a lovely decorated cake and punch. The club now has a membership of over fifty. Mrs. J. Ernest Mackey, Regional Councilor for this district officiated at the installation of the new officers.

Elected to office were:

President,	Mrs. William Haskell
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. J. R. Hall
Secretary,	Mrs. Henry Shilling
Treasurer,	Mrs. Chas. Croninger

LEWISTOWN PENNSYLVANIA

The Lewistown African Violet Society was organized January 31, 1949 and now has a membership of nine, all of whom are members of the National Society. Meetings are held in the homes of the members on the second Monday of the month.

Officers for the year 1951 are:

President,	Mrs. Samuel Mitchell
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Raymond Hickman
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Clarence Bell

COLORADO SOCIETIES

Officers for the African Violet Society of Denver, Chapter 1 of Area 8 are as follows:

President,	Mrs. Theo M. Greer
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Maurice Bush
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. F. E. Jenkins

Officers for the African Violet Society of Denver, Amethyst Chapter are:

President,	Mrs. George Meyers
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Leslie Hill

The African Violet Study Group of Windsor, Colorado has recently been formed with Mrs. R. A. Saunders as the leader.

SENECA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

The Seneca African Violet Society of Seneca, Kansas was organized March 20, 1951 with a membership of fifteen. Meetings are to be held at the City Rest Room on the third Tuesday of each month with the business meeting called for 8:00 p. m. Prior to this at 7:00 p. m. we will have a tour of one or more homes to view African violets.

Officers elected for this year are:

President,	Mrs. Joe Olberding
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. August Ronnebaum
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Frank Painter
Reporter,	Mrs. Minnie Jermane
Corres. Secy.	Mrs. John A. Lecick

WINDSOR, ONTARIO SOCIETY

A group of seven persons met at the home of Mrs. D. Marks, on May 10, 1951 for the purpose of organizing an African Violet Society in Windsor, Mr. Frank Hull acted as chairman of the meeting and Miss Erma Peppler was appointed secretary.

Officers elected for a period of six months are:

President,	Frank Hull
Vice-Pres.,	W. H. Hinton
Secretary,	Miss Erma Peppler
Treasurer,	Mrs. D. Marks
Program,	Mrs. W. W. Woodruff
Refreshments,	Mrs. Hinton and Mrs. Hull

Qualifications for membership were discussed and By-Laws were adopted.

Membership will be for amateur growers and limited to fifteen. Monthly meetings will be held on the first Monday evening at 8 p. m.

SAN PEDRO CALIFORNIA

On Tuesday night, April 17, 1951, the new San Pedro Society was installed by Mrs. Clarissa Harris of Los Angeles. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Inga Hedlund.

Officers elected are:

President,	Mrs. Alice Gruendler
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Inga Hedlund
Secretary,	Mrs. Inez Johnson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Grace Wilson
Plant Chairman,	Mrs. Guldbeck

Mrs. Harris then gave an interesting talk on the culture of African violets. Membership in this club now numbers twenty-six.

ST. JOSEPH MISSOURI

The Missouri Valley African Violet Society of St. Joseph, Missouri held its first show in the Red Feather Room of the Y. W. C. A. There were over a thousand registered with seven states represented. The show was attractively staged on long tables covered in pale green and arranged along the walls.

An outstanding feature in the center of the room was the nursery arranged by Milton Bumbacher. The foundation of the arrangement was in pale green with four colorful storks with a baby violet in their bill. The center of the arrangement consisted of wild fern with a cradle inserted, holding an Ionantha. Around the arrangement were leaves in all stages of growth and all manner of growing media. There were 14 classes including children's arrangements, novelties and displays.

Mrs. Robt. Montgomery and Mrs. Milton Cockran both of Kansas City, Missouri served as judges. Mrs. Ferd Flach served as show chairman.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT CLUB

Over four hundred persons visited the first exhibit of African violets held on May 8, 1951 at Webster Hall in West Hartford by the Central Connecticut Saintpaulia Club. Mrs. T. Y. Ramsdell and Mrs. Charles Dow were co-chairman of the exhibit with the able assistance of the hospitality committee.

It is believed that this is the first show to be held by an organized group in New England. It was free to the public and some idea of the interest may be gained by the fact that two hundred popular votes were cast for the most outstanding plant which was a Mentor Boy exhibited by Mrs. A. D. Spring.

The club librarian, Mrs. Donald Watson, conducted a reference table with pamphlets, National Society Magazines and the latest horticultural information on saintpaulias. Mrs. Ralph Filson and Mrs. Stanley Traskers were busy from 2 p. m. until 5 p. m. demonstrating potting procedures and answering the questions of the many interested persons who stood in line.

It was gratifying to all members of the club to know that so many gained enjoyment and knowledge from this exhibit. Small plants and leaves were sold which netted the club more than enough to defray expenses.

BEAN CREEK VALLEY EXHIBIT

The Bean Creek Valley African Violet Club held its first show at the Methodist Church in Hudson, Michigan on May 8, 1951 with two hundred and fifty visitors from California, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, New York and Michigan.

Members and friends exhibited three hundred and fifty choice plants. Displays of special interest were Mrs. Robert Cunningham's seedling exhibit showing the parent plants and a dozen of their seedling offspring; Mrs. Helen McGill's natural setting group which featured several beautiful variegated plants and S. grotei, as well as others; and Mrs. Carl Houseman's Violet Nursery. All these exhibits were awarded first prizes.

Mrs. Eugene Ruder's Neptune received a Sweepstakes award as the best single crown plant in the show and Mrs. Lelsie Britten was awarded a Sweepstakes as winner of the most blue ribbons. Mrs. Dale Ferrall of Battle Creek, Michigan was judge of the exhibit.

Mrs. K. D. Friess of Hudson, Michigan Table" attracted a constant crowd of visitors. The club history and scrap books were on display as well as African violet books and copies of the African Violet Magazine. Leaves were passed out to those interested in growing their own plants.

The show was preceeded by a club luncheon attended by nearly seventy members and friends.

Mrs. K. D. Friess of Hudson Michigan acted as general show chairman.

Officers for the club are:

President,	Mrs. Robert Cunningham
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Eugene Ruder
Secretary,	Mrs. Helen McGill
Treasurer,	Mrs. Wilber Riley
Historian,	Mrs. Winifred Clement

TRENTON NEW JERSEY SHOW

On October 4 and 5, 1951 the Trenton African Violet Club will display at least a thousand African violets at the War Memorial Building in Trenton New Jersey.

Classes are open for Violet Clubs, also for non-members. Anyone interested in showing violets in the show, please contact Edgar Harriss, State Highway 25, Burlington, New Jersey.

Admission is free.

AURORA SOCIETY SHOW

The Admiral Branch of the Aurora, Illinois, African Violet Society held its first show on April 21, 1951 at the Y. W. C. A. The theme chosen was "African Violet Fairyland" which expressed well the idea of the show planners as every type, shade and size of these popular plants were exhibited. An estimated two thousand persons were present for the afternoon and evening showing.

The one hundred ninety-seven entries included two hundred individual plants consisting of sixty-five varieties and were judged by Mrs. Dale Ferral, Battle Creek, Michigan, Mrs. Elof Carlson, Rockford, and Mrs. Wm. Fowkes, Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Alfred Weingartner was general chairman.

Mayor Lloyd E. Markel was present to bestow the award for the most blue ribbons, which was won by Mrs. E. G. Magill, founder of the Admiral branch who won nine blue ribbons.

The Schaefer Greenhouse displayed a collection of African violets that filled the rostrum of the auditorium. The booth on violet culture and growth was a center of interest, numbering many men among its visitors.

Members of the African Violet Society, Admiral Branch, presented a program at Sunnymere Friday Afternoon, March 16, and gave each resident a violet plant with instructions for its care. Mrs. E. G. Magill gave the address and led the recitation of the Lord's Prayer. Mrs. Mableruth Hunt sang several appropriate numbers, accompanied by Mrs. Glenn Davidson at the piano. Mrs. Samuel Rowe gave a reading and Mrs. Robert Spruce read a poem. Refreshments were served by the members of the Society. Hostesses were Mrs. Robert Brown, Mrs. Harry Weller, and Mrs. Ralph Lyson. Mrs. Spence was in charge of the program.

Preceding the visit to Sunnymere, the club met at the Magill home for the usual business meeting.

CLEVELAND SOCIETY SHOW

The Metropolitan Cleveland African Violet Society held its first show at the Cleveland Garden Center on April 14 and 15, 1951. The Garden Center in its picturesque setting, facing the small lake with the Art Museum to the north and the well landscaped grounds is an ideal location for any flower show.

There were about one hundred and seventy-five entries, including arrangements. Mr. Arnold Davis, director of the Garden Center contributed greatly to the success of the show, of which the members are justly proud. Mrs. Max Price acted as show chairman.

Specimen plants were exhibited on tiered tables which lined most of the auditorium In the foyer, the arrangements and large multiple crowned plants greeted visitors as they entered the building.

The Queen of the Show Award, a gold cup went to Mrs. H. K. Anderson for her du Pont No. 4. A years membership in the National Society was given to Mrs. Frank Pochurek as the Sweepstakes Award. Judges were Mrs. Arthur Radtke and Mrs. John Landaker of Cincinnati, and Mrs. E. Pearle Turner of Akron.

There were several small commercial-hobbiest dealers who are members of the group but there was only one commercial exhibit.

Those assisting Mrs. Price were Mesdames Pochurek, McMahon, McKay, Hodan, Held, Placak, Kopac, Rekstis, Hexter, Anderson, Strasbourger, Sniff, Scheu, Hrabah, Miller, Braebender, Conant and Sinnott.

Attendance for the two days was over six thousand five hundred.

BATTLE CREEK EXHIBIT

The sweepstakes prizes at the African Violet Show held on June 7, 1951 at the Postum Clubhouse were won by Mrs. Dale Ferrall, show chairman whose entries took four blue ribbons, one red ribbon and one white, representing first, second and third places. The show was dedicated to the promotion and improvement of the species and was sponsored by the two local groups, the Battle Creek African Violet Society and the Lady Geneva Society.

The show attracted a crowd of around four hundred spectators. Most of the twenty classes into which entries were divided were well represented. Runner-up in the sweepstakes class was Mrs. Vernon Waite, vice-president of the Battle Creek Society, who came in second with one blue ribbon, three reds and three whites.

The most novel entries were in the "special day" class where arrangements suitable for Christmas, Independence Day, Mother's Day and Father's Day were among the themes. Particular interest was attracted by Mrs. Ferrall's Independence Day centerpiece composed of a large red firecracker, fuse and all, laid on its side, scooped out and planted with red, white and blue African violets.

WEBSTER GROVES SOCIETY

On January 18, 1951 the Charter Chapter of St. Louis and St. Louis County celebrated its second birthday at the home of Mrs. Frank Shadday, Webster Groves. A beautifully decorated cake was served with refreshments. One of the guests was a member of the Viking African Violet Club.

Our two years have been most successful in contributing toward our knowledge of African Violets as well as stimulating interest in forming new groups throughout the area. We have set a goal of at least one group a year to be formed from the Charter Chapter and to date the Viking group has already celebrated it's first birthday, and one or more groups are now in the organization stage, as yet unnamed.

At the March 15, 1951 meeting, held at the home of Mrs. W. R. Stevens the newly elected officers for 1951 were installed as follows:

Chairman,	Mrs. W. Moch
Vice-Chm.,	Mrs. C. W. Chambers
Publicity Chm.,	Mrs. W. R. Stevens
Treasurer,	Mrs. W. Paulus
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. M. A. Renick
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. L. E. Koenig

As a gesture of appreciation to the outgoing officers a violet was given each of them by the officer replacing them.

Following the business meeting the program consisted of a talk given by Mrs. W. Moch entitled "H Bomb."

HASTINGS NEBRASKA

A group of violet enthusiasts met on February 11, 1951 to organize the African Violet Society of Hastings. The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Harry Mills
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Garth Osterhout
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. W. A. Cole
Reporter,	Mrs. J. R. Jones

This new club has fifteen members.

PHILADELPHIA CLUB PICNIC

Mrs. Anna Steele was hostess to the African Violet Society of Philadelphia at a picnic meeting at her home on Bristol Road, Langhorne, Pennsylvania on June 24th.

Following the delicious luncheon the members much enjoyed the beautiful display of Mrs. Steeles saintpaulias which were a mass of bloom.

LOCKPORT ILLINOIS

A group of nine violet enthusiasts met at the home of Mrs. Earl Burnsworth, May 22, 1951 to organize the Lockport African Violet Society.

Mrs. Burnsworth presided as chairman of the meeting and the following officers were appointed for the first six months:

President,	Mrs. Earl Burnsworth
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Frank Loucks
Secretary,	Mrs. Wm. Ziesman
Treasurer,	Mrs. Sadie Kreiger
Publicity,	Mrs. John Salley

This new clubs membership is limited to twenty five, and it meets the 2nd Tuesday afternoon of the month in the members homes. An educational program is being planned.

An annual Christmas party, and picnic as well as a tea and exhibition in the spring is on the clubs agenda.

INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA CLUB

The Indianapolis African Violet Club was organized on Washington's Birthday February 22, 1951. Meetings for the twenty-two members are held the second Friday of each month. Programs for the coming year will include a showing in June 1952 of plants grown from leaves obtained at a leaf exchange at the June meeting this year. A show was to be staged in May.

Officers elected for a one year period are:

President,	Mrs. Ernest Kitch
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Hermann Fitterer
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Gaylord Snyder
Treasurer,	Mrs. A. N. Robinson
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Guy Lennington

In Memoriam

MRS. JOHN C. STILLWELL

MR. R. A. BROWN SR.

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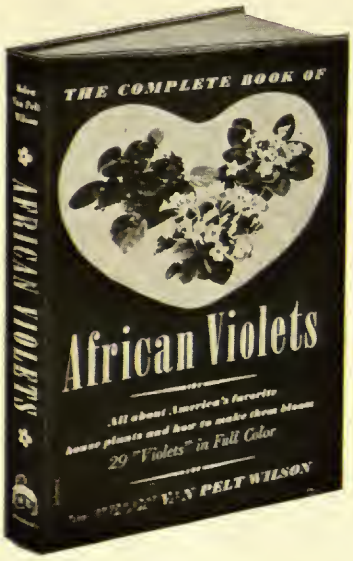

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9. Wrap it Up
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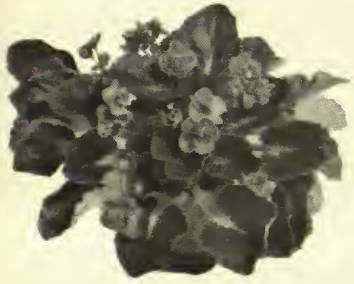

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African Violet Magazine

DECEMBER 1951 VOLUME 5 NUMBER 2

JUL 18

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PAINTED GIRL $2.75

White flower with a heavy band of bright orchid at the petal edges, sometimes extending to the center of the flower. Profuse bloomer. A lively pattern and sure to attract excited comments from your neighbors.

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A SAD EXPERIENCE

Remember last December? When the railroad strike tied up all parcel post? We mailed 800 plants just the day before, every one froze too. Our customers were glad they ordered from us, because WE STOOD THE WHOLE LOSS OURSELVES . . . sent them brand new fresh plants first thing this Spring at no cost. Makes for satisfied repeat customers, which are the basis of our business.

We positively mean our guarantee of "YOU BE THE JUDGE, we're anxious to please!" This year on late orders, shall I hold your order till Spring or return your money? We do not ship during winter months. For a lovelier window garden this fall, write me today!

MONEY SAVING PRICE REDUCTIONS EFFECTIVE NOW

It looked as tho we might have too many Spring 1951 catalogs so we sent them to A. V. M. Members in July. The color of ink used "wine-red" is EXACTLY THE SAME COLOR as "The Ohio Giant" @ $2.50, listed in Fall 1951 catalog. (THE OHIO GIANT is the same variety as Ulery's Orchid Velvet, "THE OHIO GIANT" is the darkest loudest wine-orchid we've ever sold! Gigantic flowers of heaviest substance, 6 to 8 buds. Round furry leaves, thick stems. If you can't locate the Spring catalog, remember our Fall 1951 catalog SAVES YOU MONEY — as follows:

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BIG NEWS — We've Moved. Our greenhouse is not full of African Violets yet but we can still take good care of all mail orders you send us.

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African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Alma Wright, Editor
Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn.

Mary Parker, Assistant Editor
Harrill Hills, Knoxville 18, Tenn.

Evan Roberts, Research Editor
355 N. Harrison St., E. Lansing, Mich.

Floyd L. Johnson, Advertising Mgr.
79 West Gibson St., Canandaigua, N. Y.

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 West 3rd, Perry, Iowa.

Neil C. Miller, Mgr. Veterans Affairs
Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J.

Contributing Editors - Boyce Edens,
Regina Gottshall H. G. Harvey

News Reporters - Harriet F. Lawton
Emily Hodan Daisy Jones
Warren Gottshall Phyllis Ferrall
Martha Mears Ruth Dahnke
Florence Foltz Lauretta L. Littig

Homing Pigeon Dept.:
Helen Pochurek, News Editor
14425 McCracken Rd., Cleveland, Ohio

Gladys Canner, Membership Mgr.
Route 1, Creek Rd., Herkimer, N. Y.

OFFICERS

Mrs. Arthur Radtke President
3334 Orion St.
Cincinnati 13, Ohio

Mr. Floyd L. Johnson, 1st Vice-Pres.
79 West Gibson Street
Canandaigua, N. Y.

Mrs. C. H. Harris, 2nd Vice-Pres.
757 Athens Boulevard
Los Angeles 44, California

Mr. Neil C. Miller, Rec. Sec'ty.
Layton's Lake
Penns Grove, N. J.

Mrs. W. P. Dahnke, Corres. Sec'ty.
5611 Newton Road, Route 2
Merriam, Kansas

Mrs. Earl Mutchner, Mem. Sec'ty.
606 Richmond Ave.
Richmond, Indiana

Mr. Boyce M. Edens, Treas.
2694 Lenox Rd., N.E.
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The Romances of the AFRICAN VIOLET

Mary E. Tupper, Va.

African violets have such charming, pleasing names which easily weave into their romances. Blue Boy and Blue Girl are in love. They court under the Gorgeous, Ozark Skies of Heavenly Blue. Snow King is hesitant in selecting his partner. He ponders over his thoughts of the beautiful White Queen who always wears an Amethyst, the delightful Dainty Maid who adores Sapphires, and the sweet White Lady who thrills over a corsage of Water Lilies. Redhead is smiling at the shy Blushing Maiden while Sailor Boy flirts with the Red-headed Girl. Little Pink Girl is coy as she makes (Blue) Eyes at the Sailor. But Sailor Girl knows he is to belong to her and it is they who will sail through life together.

Blue Birds and Blue Butterflies are flitting about as the Purple Prince and the Lilac Princess cross the Lily Pond. He is magnificent in his Dark Plum suit and she is lovely wearing a Bi-color and Blue Velvet dress which is trimmed with Old Lace and Ruffles of Rose Purple. The Commodore and Myrtle pause to listen to the Red Bird who is filling the air with his song of joy at seeing the Gypsy Queen and Gypsy Princess plucking Lily Pads. The water Ripples as they wade and play in their happiness, as tonight they must be clever and gay when they read the palm of the mighty Red King.

As the evening passes, the dignified Norseman strolls into the gardens to meditate and dream about his sweetheart. He comes on to a merry group. The surprised Norseman Crinkles his brow at finding Mary Wac, Jessie and Judy dancing with the Mentor Boy at Midnight. But his own Lady Geneva is not among the Merry-makers. She is waiting at her balcony to throw good night wishes to her love.

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Please help us find the following members. These addresses are not correct.

Mrs. Myrtle Strange
Park Hotel
Sayre, Penna.

Mrs. Leon J. Smeltzer
1304 Benter
Lansing, Mich.

From my house to your house a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Alma Wright

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THE SELECT VIOLET HOUSE

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR TO OUR AFRICAN VIOLET FRIENDS

SINCERE SEASONS GREETINGS

To tne leaders of Our National Society who have so willingly given so much to make Our Society and magazine the best for us may you continue to grow and progress in the coming year.

MARY MEEDS

BOX 1444 **YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO**

"YELLOW BROWN GIRL"

Yellow Brown Girl has a yellow brownish colored crinkled cup shaped flower. Nice regular girl foliage. This is the only variety of African violet that we know of that has any yellow.

You hobbyists will like this one and if you are hybridizing we can't see how you can afford not to add it to your collection as this variety will produce you some unusual seedlings.

Undivided plants in bloom or about ready to bloom out of 2¼ inch pots $5.00 each, shipped PARCEL POST SPECIAL DELIVERY.

AN INVITATION TO YOU!

WELCOME TO THE GREENHOUSE 9 to 5 P.M. - LOCATED AT 2023 BELMONT AVENUE ON ROUTE 90 NORTH OF YOUNGSTOWN.

1952 Convention

The African Violet Society of America Convention will be held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Illinois on April 24, 25 and 26.

Information will be mailed out to all members in March 1952 Magazine.

Plan now to bring plants for

THE EXHIBIT

VIOLETS ABROAD

Beatrice Fortney, Ohio

Over in Heidelberg, Germany, a nephew is stationed with our occupation troops in the Chaplain Division. He has been interested in horticulture since a small lad and it was he who first interested me in saintpaulias.

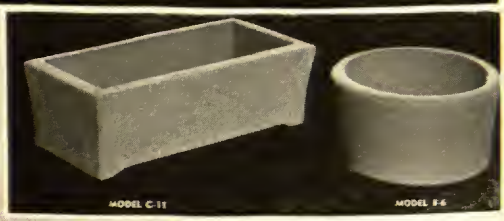
During the summer of 1950, in a letter, he asked if I would try to send him some African violets. In that locality he had found such poor plants and then only Blue Boys. But the postal authorities would not accept my plants because they were not government inspected. At the Dayton Convention, I related my regret to Ruth Yoars. She graciously said she'd try and started three plants on their journey on May 17th via air mail. On May 21st Charles Applegate received the parcel in Heidelberg. It was well labeled and marked "Rush."

Moist sphagnum moss was wrapped about the soil and roots, each plant was wrapped individually and snugly and arrived in fine condition. Pink Beauty and Rosalie were in bloom and Red Orchid Girl in bud.

To quote from his letter, "The African violets caused quite a sensation in the office; not only among the Germans but the chaplains and soldiers as well. They could scarcely believe they had come from the States and were still so fresh."

The experience has been so gratifying that Charles and I both say "Hat's Off" to Mrs. Yoars.

VERMICULITE POTTERY



V-P is made in 5 sizes - Pastel Gold-flecked

GREEN — ROSE — WHITE

V-P TRADE MARK PATENT PENDING

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Jasper Pottery, Inc.

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ARTIST PRAISES V-P

I had an African Violet in a Model B-6 V-P planter, which bloomed nine months and got so large that I had to divide it.

From this plant I took three small plants measuring about five inches across, and planted these in the Model C-11 in April, 1951.

In August, 1951 they were in bloom and measured 16 inches across as shown in the picture. Never before have my violets done so well -- no watery stems -- each blossom large and strong in color -- with leaves so healthy.

BELLE BOGARDUS ROBBINS

BELLE BOGARDUS ROBBINS STUDIOS

West Lafayette, Indiana

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A real opportunity to have the newest and best for the least. The varieties listed below are lovely well developed rooted cuttings of the latest introductions. And they will be available in early spring. Delivery will be made just as soon after March , 1952 as the weather will permit. Orders will be filled in the order which they are received. All merchandise is guaranteed to be from the originator and is authentically named.

DELIGHT — solid light blue double, .75

SEA GIRL — medium blue double on girl foliage, $1.00

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RED VELVET — Ulery's newest Red, large velvety blooms on dark veined foliage, .75

APPLE BLOSSOM — very large white blooms with pastel shading on duPont foliage, $1.00

BLUE DELIGHT — two tone like Blue Eyed Beauty but a darker blue eye, .75

ROSE MARIE — a true rose colored blossom of good size on pretty foliage, .75

When ordering, please enclose your check or money order and on orders under $5.00 please add 60c for postage and packing. On orders over $5.00 order will be sent postpaid.

May we suggest that you try our own specially prepared potting soil, not a commercially prepared product, but the same one we grow our plants in. 3# for $1.10 or 5# for $1.65 postpaid.

Our aim is to please you above all else by shipping good healthy plants that will reach you in good condition. We are Federally Certified and eligible to ship anywhere. For those who wish to purchase plants, please write for our price list.

GRANGER GARDENS

HUGH EYERDOM & SON — **R. 1. WADSWORTH, OHIO**

Greenhouses are open from 8:00 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. daily, and are located one mile east of the school at Granger, Ohio. Also open Sundays and Holidays.

Mentor Boy Seedlings

Martha Browning, Tenn.

My Mentor Boy

This Mentor Boy plant is almost four years old and has only been without blooms twice for a period of two or three weeks.

A few days after the first blooms opened, I noticed a seed pod forming and began to worry about this plant. Soon there were four or five seed pods, and then I discovered that there was a deformity in the blooms. The style grows out between the stamens and thus pollinates itself.

Mrs. M. K. Walsh, formerly of Oak Ridge has a sister plant that forms its own seed pods.

Mrs. R. L. Browning of Flemingsberg, Kentucky, has the mother plant and it also formed seed pods, and I have watched three successive generations of plants raised from leaf cuttings in Oak Ridge and the trait is prevalent, through all five generations.

What is more, a cross of this Mentor Boy and another plant produces its own seed pods as you will note by the accompanying photograph. Some seedlings raised from the self-pollinated seed pods are doing the same thing.

Most of the seedlings have Mentor Boy flowers, but very different foliage; however there are a few outstanding flowers —one a beautiful red.

Above left, plant with interesting foliage. A cross between Mentor Boy and another variety. Note the large seed pod. This plant is also self-pollinating.

Below left, a Mentor Boy seedling with spoon type foliage and Mentor Boy blossoms. From Mrs. Henry Kroeger's collection.

Society Activities and Appreciation

Mrs. Radtke

How do you like our colored cover? It is the realization of a long standing dream of our good editor. (I should apologize for the plant -- after a couple of hours in the hot lights it was a little sad -- if there is a next time, I shall use a stand-in.) Our editor wants you to know that she has made preparation for several more colored covers and while she would like nothing better than to have one on every issue of the magazine she can not promise it. Unless she has some assistance, the cost is prohibitive. I can think of no better way for our commercial growers to introduce a new variety, can you?

Here is another message from Alma Wright. There seems to be some confusion as to the price of membership, which is three dollars ($3.00). There are no two dollar ($2.00) memberships.

We wish to apologize for an error in not making the change in our By-Laws that was ordered at our annual meeting. Article IV Section 4 (page 5 of our current handbook) should read: "The regions of the United States now established at ten (10) shall continue until changed by the Board of Directors with the approval of the majority of members present at any Annual Meeting. There shall also be one additional Region, comprising the Dominion of Canada. There shall be one Councilor for each of the eleven Regions who shall be appointed by the president for a term of one year."

My last efforts as your president were directed toward making available to you a pin that will identify the wearer as a member of our Society. Our good friends in Akron, Ohio, Mrs. Pearle Turner, Mrs. Walter Schmittel, Mrs. Paul Folk and Mrs. T. A. O'Niel have made this possible. The pin or button for the men's lapel is very lovely, (sterling silver with enamel) and may be obtained by sending three dollars and fifty cents ($3.50) to Mrs. Pearle Turner, 828 Kenmore Blvd., Akron, Ohio. The committee or the Society will make no profit on this as the price quoted is what the jeweler charges and includes tax, packing and mailing.

I wish on behalf of the Society to sincerely thank Helen Van Pelt Wilson for dedicating her fine new book "The Complete Book of African Violets" to our organization. It is a splendid piece of work and we are both proud and grateful.

While saying our thank-yous, also on behalf of the Society may we thank Nelle Berst, Dayton, Ohio, for the handsome gavel which she presented to us and which will be passed on to my successor, Mr. Floyd Johnson. It is with a feeling of satisfaction that I welcome him to take my place, for I know the affairs of the Society will be in very competent hands, and I am sure you will all give to Floyd the help and support you have so generously given to me.

I wish to thank my fellow officers, the Board of Directors, The Regional Councilors, our magazine editor, who should really head the list, all the committee chairmen and members -- in fact my thanks to every one of you for your cooperation in these last two busy, busy years.

Sincerely,

Myrtle Radtke

Is it not worth the effort?? All of these plants have recovered from Cyclamen mite. They are now in bud and bloom. Picture was taken on August 30th — last year.

The Optimistic Side of Mite Cure!

Harriet F. Lawton, Mass.

Photographs by the author

Is there such a thing? I decidedly say there is, and I think you will readily agree, if you look at the accompanying photographs. So much has been said about the discouragement that comes with an attack of Cyclamen mite that I would like to emphasize the other angle.

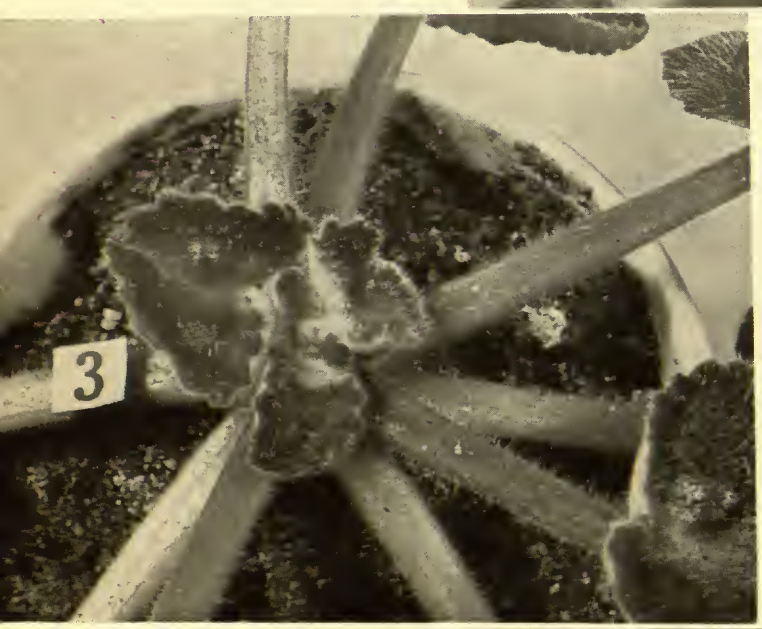
In the September issue of the magazine, there was an article entitled "Have Your Plants Cyclamen Mite?" I think some of you will be

5 A. 11/13/49. Cyclamen mite recognized and treatment started the same time as 3A.

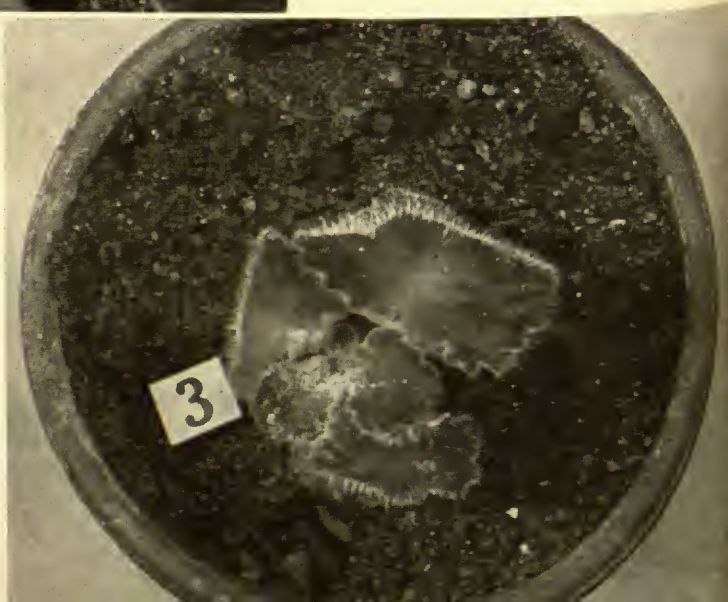
5B. 1/22/50. Picture taken the same day as was 3C and plant looks less hopeful. Strange as it may seem -- this plant is recovering. See 5C.

5C May, 1950. Unlike 3C this plant is staging a comeback.

3A. 11/13/49. Mite discovered while plant still appeared fairly husky. Spray treatments started at once.



3B. 12/13/49. Picture shows what can happen in one short month. This may be partly due to destruction of plant tissue due to a heavy spray program. However spray is necessary to kill the mite.



3C. 1/22/50. Same plant 5 weeks later. This plant finally died. It should have been shifted to a much smaller pot where the moisture could have been kept to a minimum because of the diseased tissue and inactive roots. This might not have saved it however.

Sink plants recovering from mite down to new growth. New roots will form on main stem. This photo shows sucker as side shoot. In its attempt to right itself, main stem becomes crooked. Sucker should be centered and root tilted and placed on side of pot if necessary to make symmetrical growth. If this is not done growth will be like the next photograph -- which shows the crown of the plant at one side of the pot.

A plant, having had mite was not trained and side sucker was allowed to shoot out side of pot. This does not make for a shapely plant and will hinder bloom.

interested to follow some of those same plants to see the comeback which can result by faithful treatment of mite-infested plants.

It has often been said, "If you have a bad case of mite, throw the plant away." Mite was not recognized in my collection of over two hundred plants until many of them were in the advanced stages. Some of the healthiest plants succumbed, while some of the worst recovered. Yet, the same type of spray was used on all, and treatment started at the same time. So - for collectors who have the time, I say it is worth it to try to save your plants.

A very small percentage of my two hundred plants was lost. When I say there IS an optimistic side to mite cure, I mean it! Look at the accompanying photographs and see if you don't agree. Instead of feeling apologetic when showing sick plants, I can now feel the pride which every grower enjoys!! It is worth it, so, if your plants have mite, give it a try!!

COME down out of the clouds -- you can't conduct a meeting up there.

Madame President !

Florence Foltz, Penna.

Madame President . . . come down out of the clouds; you can't conduct a meeting up there. Sure, you won the election, but that doesn't mean that the club members consider you a little "Greek Goddess." You were chosen because they wanted a good leader this year, and as the months go by, you will come to realize that there is more to being President than just the honor of having been selected!

There are committee chairmen to be appointed, and they should be chosen carefully. Just because Jane Jones makes delicious desserts, don't conclude that she'll make a good program chairman. By the same token, the fact that Sue Smith needs a new permanent doesn't detract from her ability to plan a good show. Most important, don't be influenced by those helpful souls who "just know so-and-so would be your best choice for the such-and-such committee." You were elected; select the people YOU think best.

Advance publicity via the local radio and press is good to get the members enthused about what you have in mind for the coming year. It is also nice to contact your prospective chairmen, either by phone, or a short visit, before the meeting. There may be a valid reason why one or another will not be able to serve, and it may save both of you unnecessary embarrassment if you learn all the facts beforehand. Then, too, if you explain the duties of the particular chairmen, so that each knows what is expected of her, there will be less confusion later on.

Make it a point to start your meetings on time. As long as there are meetings there will be stragglers, but if the meeting is in progress when they arrive, their late arrival won't gain them any attention and might possibly induce them to get there on time next time.

Another gigantic job is to keep order, and keep on the subject during the meeting.

REMEMBER to give credit where credit is due . . . how much could you get done without your faithful workers?

There are few things as annoying as having a good program drowned out by a couple of individuals discussing everything from the latest scandal to prepared cake mix. It isn't in any of the Rules of Order, but the day will surely come when it will be legal for the President to bang her gavel -- full strength -- on the head of any individual who persists in talking during the program.

Always dress appropriately; avoid frills, clanking jewelry and silly hats. Being well-groomed will give you added poise, which is an essential quality for a good President.

Remember to give credit where it is due. The great success of your pet project will go down in the history of the club as one of your accomplishments, but could you have done it without your faithful workers? It might be an opportune spot right here to urge every member to willingly take her share of work when so requested. The more workers there are, the more good can be accomplished.

Last but not least, study good women speakers, practice their grace and poise. You needn't be an actress or a clothes horse but you can prove that good grooming and brains go together, by being both charming and efficient. And with things running so smoothly, maybe you CAN climb back up on your cloud and sail through the rest of your term basking in the reflected glory of your African Violet Society.

THE DAY will surely come when it will be legal for the president to bang her gavel on the head of any individual who persists in talking during the program.

A BEAUTIFUL CORSAGE . . . .

OUT OF FRESHLY FALLEN BLOOMS

Lorna Anderson, Mich.

Many times, I have wished that we could find a way to use the lovely fallen blossoms from our favorite plant. After many unsuccessful attempts, and much thinking instead of sleeping at night, I finally succeeded in making these fallen blooms into a dainty corsage that will stay fresh for hours!

This may sound like a difficult feat, but you too will soon master this beautiful art -- with a bit of practice.

You will need the finest wire that is to be had in floral work (No. 30), also a little heavier green enamel wire for the leaves, some yellow cotton, and a roll of green parafilm.

First step -- use one four inch length of wire, take a small piece of yellow cotton no larger than a very small pea, wrap it over the end of wire, bend wire back over cotton about a quarter of an inch, pinch and shape into a small ball size of stamen (Chart 1 and 2). Take an inch long strip of parafilm and, holding the wired cotton ball between the thumb and index finger of the left hand, wrap the parafilm so it covers a little of the cotton ball and extends down the wire about a quarter of an inch. Wrap this part as tight and small as possible.

Second step -- insert wire, unwrapped end first, in front side of violet below stamen, and carefully pull through until cotton is resting snugly under stamen. Use a three inch piece of parafilm. Now, holding the wired blossom gently between fingers of left hand (blossom facing palm of hand) start wrapping as close to blossom as possible. Finish winding the wire to the entire length. (Chart 3, 4 and 5).

Take several of these wired blossoms, carefully pinch stems together into any shape you desire, using a small bit of parafilm to hold together, if you like. (Chart 6).

Third step -- for leaves, I use small side leaves and a few middle leaves of the easily grown grapeleaf ivy with a half inch of stem left on. Insert enameled wire on back of leaf close to center vein just above the first pair of veins, across the front of leaf, and into the back side again. Now bend the wire (as a hairpin) down about an inch, squeeze gently together and start wrapping with parafilm a little above leaf stem. (Chart 7, 8 and 9). The leaves will shine nicely if rubbed with a dry cloth before working with them.

Fourth step -- fasten desired leaves together with a little parafilm (Chart 10) and arrange behind the wired violets; be sure the parafilm shows, to look like stems.

Now, you can bend wired violets and leaves any way you wish. A pretty bow -- I prefer gold ribbon -- completes the corsage. (Chart 11).

Note: Use only freshly fallen blossoms, as they hold up better. The grapeleaf ivy will hold up well for several hours, also. A few drops of cake coloring in a little water, or Tintex, may be used to tint the cotton. For a dainty personal touch, I conceal a small piece of green cotton under the ribbon with a few drops of my favorite perfume on it.

Illustrations on opposite page were done by Mrs. Anderson's daughter Marie Nichols and show step by step how to design an attractive corsage from fallen blossoms.

Chart I

Chart II

Chart III

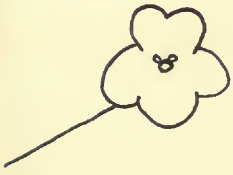


Chart IV

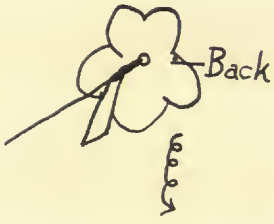


Chart V

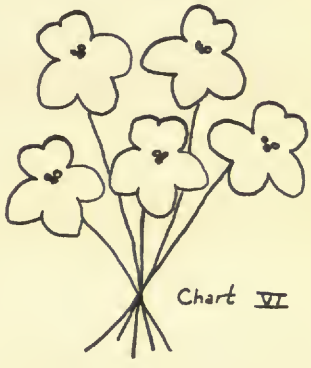


Chart VI

Chart VII

Chart VIII

Chart IX

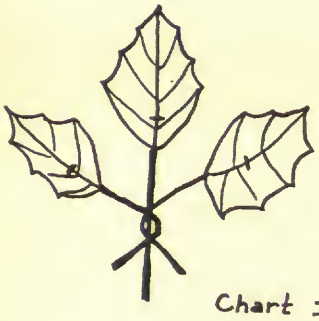


Chart X

Chart XI

M. Nichols

A Note on The Cytology of Saintpaulias[1]

G. B. Wilson [2]

During the late Fall and early Winter of 1948, a preliminary survey of the cytology of several varieties and species of Saintpaulia was made. Material for this study was provided by Evan Roberts of the Department of Horticulture, Michigan State College. The primary aim was to check the chromosome number. The only count which was found reported in the literature was that of Suigura (1936) who gives 2n = 28 as the number for Saintpaulia ionantha.

Both root tip materials and flower buds were used for study but in no case was anything like a complete cytological investigation made. Most meiotic and premeiotic counts were made from aceto-carmine squash preparations, while most root tip counts were made from slides prepared according to the standard Feulgen squash method. There appears to be a strong periodicidy in meiosis which makes it rather difficult to find suitable stages except at specific times. The most favorable time so far as the material then available was concerned, appeared to be about 3 p. m.

Table I gives a summary of all the information available to date. All counts given are based on at least two separate samples with not less than 10 cells counted from each sample. Figure 1 shows first telophase of meiosis from the variety Blush. Fifteen chromosomes can clearly be counted at each pole.

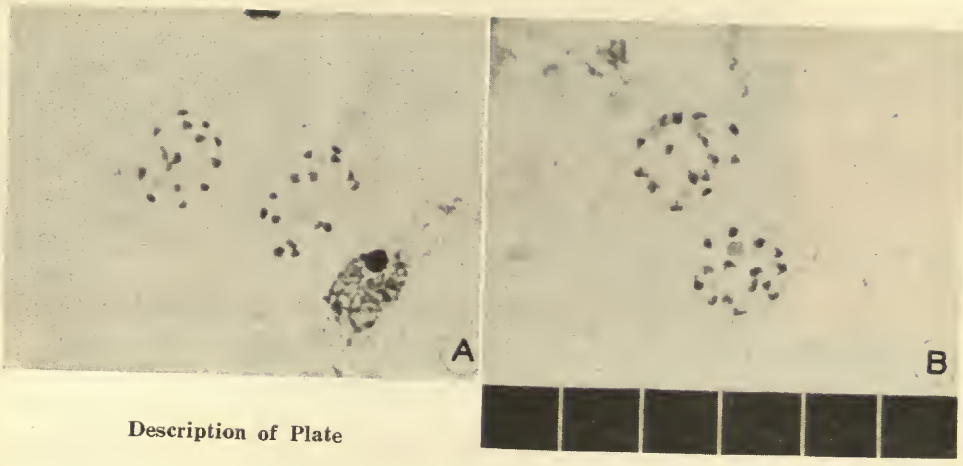
As noted in Table I the number appears to be 15 in all cases including S. ionantha so that it would appear possible that previous counts are in error. The small size of the chromosomes would render such an error very easy to make especially in sectioned or otherwise relatively unflattened material.

Of the six varieties for which meiotic material was available only one appears to be in any way abnormal. Storm King appears to be heterozygous for an inversion judging by the relatively high frequency of First Anaphase bridges. In most cases the expected accompanying fragment was not observed presumably owing to its small size but in a few well flattened cells it was clearly present.

TABLE I

MATERIAL	ROOT-TIP OR PRE-MEIOTIC COUNT	MEIOSIS	REMARKS
S. ionantha	30		
Blue Boy	30	15 II	Meiosis regular
Blue Girl	30		
White Lady		15 II*	Meiosis regular
Plum	30	15 II	Meiosis regular
Double	30		
Pink Beauty	30		
Blush	30	15 II	
Blue Leatherneck		15 II	
Storm King		15 II	Meiosis regular
Blue Amazon	60		22% first
Pink Amazon	30		Anaphase bridges.
S. grotei	30		20% bad pollen
S. tongwensis	30		

*Roman numeral II indicates normal pairing at meiosis.



Description of Plate

Figs. A & B -- First Telophase of Meiosis in Saintpaulia, variety Blush. Note fifteen chromosomes at each pole. Each division of the scale represents 10 microns.

The only polyploid detected was Blue Amazon which is a tetraploid as based on an x number of 15. The large size of the stomata in the leaves of this variety as opposed to the size in known diploids led to attempting the use of stomata size as a criterion of polyploidy. However, Pink Amazon proved to have equally large stomata and has since been shown to be diploid. Stomatal size in Saintpaulia, therefore, appears to be a poor indicator of chromosome number. So far as measurements have been made, pollen grain size is likely to prove a more reliable index.

1 — The author wishes to thank Mr. P. G. Coleman for the photomicrography.

2 — Dr. G. B. Wilson, Associate Professor of Botany at Michigan State College.

NO PLANT FOOD

Ruby Jones, Ill.

Am I the first to raise African violets organically? No artificial fertilizers have been used on my violets and each one is a specimen healthy plant. They bloom continuously and my double Duchess, raised from a leaf, has gorgeous foliage, several blooms, and contrary to general belief, has not been forced by feeding with the exception of worm castings.

Insects do not like the taste of healthy plants and artificial fertilizers kill the organisms, that protect plants from destructive organisms. Artificial stimulants disrupt the team work which takes place in organic-rich soil between tiny fungi and the roots of plants.

A well composted plant retains moisture and by washing plants (by means of a thorough spraying) with warm water, drying them in the shade, away from drafts, beautiful specimens will result and the lovely saintpaulias can be an everlasting delight to all who are appreciative of beauty.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

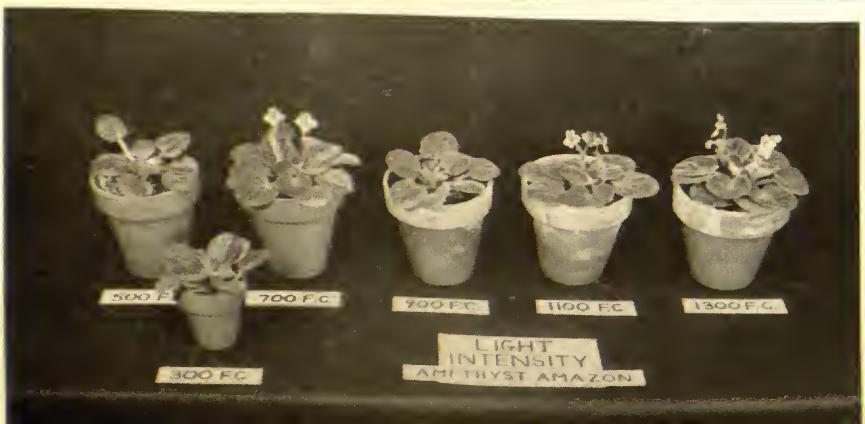


Figure 4

Results of the Research Work With Saintpaulias at the Ohio State University

Richard F. Stinson

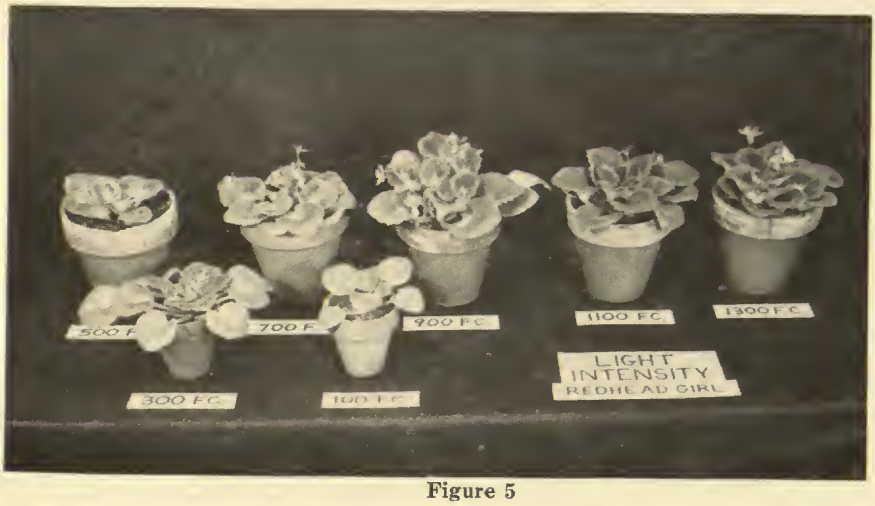


Figure 5

The following six experiments were conducted at the Ohio State University Greenhouses under the African Violet Society Fellowship for 1950-1951.

1. The effect of various light intensities upon flower bud formation (initiation) and development.

2. The effect of several temperatures upon growth and flower development.

3. The effect of artificial light upon plant growth and flower development.

4. The effect of varying nutrition, organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen, and soil pH upon growth and flowering of Saintpaulia.

5. The effect of various soil mixtures upon the growth and flowering of Saintpaulia.

6. A comparison of growth and flowering in constant level and hand watering methods.

With the exception of part of experiment number one, all the experiments have been completed and results are given in photographs and tables. All plants used in these experiments were donated by Mr. Henry Peterson of Cincinnati, Ohio. All the plants were from leaf petiole cuttings made the first week in July 1950 and were grown as "single crown" plants.

Experiment 1. The effect of various light intensities upon flower bud initiation and development.

Seven cloth-covered boxes with the following maximum light intensities in foot-candles were used: 100, 300, 500, 700, 900, 1100, and 1300. Plant samples of the variety Mentor Boy were taken weekly for microscopical examination to determine the maximum light intensity under which flower buds are initiated and developed. Processing and examination of this material requires considerable time, and results of this phase of the study have not yet been determined. Four other varieties that were grown in this experiment for visual comparison were Pink Girl, White Lady, Amethyst Amazon and Redhead Girl.

Figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 show representative plants from each variety in each plot. It is seen that no plants of Amethyst Amazon survived the 100 fc. treatment and that the variety White Lady has a similar fate at 1300 fc. The photographs were made on June 1, 1951.

Table 1 shows the average number of flowers per plant in each variety and in each treatment. Flowers were removed from each plant and counted once a week. It may be seen that in general the greatest flowering was at about 1100 fc.

TABLE 1. LIGHT INTENSITY EXPERIMENT

Average number of flowers per plant until June 1, 1951

Foot-Candles of light

VARIETIES	100	300	500	700	900	1100	1300
Mentor Boy	0.0	0.0	0.5	26.0	19.4	26.2	27.1
White Lady	0.0	4.0	0.0	9.3	19.8	8.8	
Pink Girl	0.0	4.4	4.5	19.9	25.8	36.9	15.3
Amethyst Amazon		2.5	0.0	6.4	8.3	10.8	8.6
Redhead Girl	0.0	8.0	0.8	14.2	8.5	30.3	20.1

Table 2 shows the average diameter per plant of each variety in each treatment. This table shows that in general the plants with the greatest diameters were from the 900 fc. plot.

TABLE 2. LIGHT INTENSITY EXPERIMENT

Average plant diameters on June 1, 1951 (in inches)

Foot-Candles of light

VARIETIES	100	300	500	700	900	1100	1300
Mentor Boy	4.4	5.9	6.0	8.3	8.2	7.4	7.1
White Lady	2.3	4.0	4.3	6.4	7.0	5.1	
Pink Girl	3.5	4.4	4.5	6.5	6.8	6.9	4.4
Amethyst Amazon		4.9	4.5	5.8	4.8	5.7	5.4
Redhead Girl	4.3	6.4	5.3	6.8	6.8	6.6	5.7

This experiment indicates that the most satisfactory light intensity for growth and flower development in the Saintpaulia is about 1,000 fc.

Commercial growers will probably find the purchase and use of a light meter is a profitable idea. A satisfactory light meter for this purpose is the Light Meter model 8DW40-Y16 Lamp Department, General Electric Co., Nela Park, Cleveland 12, Ohio. The cost is approximately thirteen dollars. On the basis of experience at the University Greenhouses it would appear that natural light changes occur rapidly enough so that in a greenhouse light readings should be made at least once every two weeks.

For amateur growers of Saintpaulias who may not wish to purchase a light meter, the following shading program is suggested:

April, May, June, July -- 1 layer Muslin Cloth (or equivalent)

August, Sept., Oct. -- 4 to 2 layers of cheese cloth (or equivalent)

Table 3 shows the date the first flower appeared on each variety in each treatment. This table shows that in general earliest flowering occurred in the 1100 fc. plot.

TABLE 3. LIGHT INTENSITY EXPERIMENT

First flowering dates

Foot-Candles of light

VARIETIES	100	300	500	700	900	1100	1300
Mentor Boy	Never	Never	May 18	April 10	April 13	**March 23**	April 10
White Lady	Never	Never	Never	May 4	**March 16**	April 20	
Pink Girl	Never	June 1	May 26	March 30	March 16	**Feb. 23**	March 30
Amethyst Amazon		May 11	Never	May 4	April 27	April 27	**April 20**
Redhead Girl	Never	April 27	May 18	April 10	March 30	**Dec. 25**	**April 10**

November, Dec., Jan. -- 1 layer of cheese cloth (or equivalent)

February, March -- 2 to 4 layers of cheese cloth (or equivalent)

This suggested program is based on mid-western conditions and assumes a south window, with no window screen, (which will decrease the light by perhaps 40%) and exposure to full sunlight at all times. People who are growing Saintpaulias at high elevations or in southern parts of the country may expect to have higher light intensities than those encountered in Ohio. Those living farther north may expect to have lower light intensities.

Experiment 2. The effect of several temperatures upon growth and flower development.

This experiment was designed to determine the response of this plant when grown at temperatures higher than those usually used in commercial production. In this experiment three boxes enclosed with a clear plastic cloth were used. Two were equipped with automatic heating cables and ventilating devices to maintain constant temperatures within. One of these boxes was maintained at 80° F and the other at 70° F. The third box was under the usual greenhouse temperature conditions (60° F night temperature). The varieties grown in each treatment were: Mentor Boy, White Lady, Pink Girl, Amethyst Amazon and Redhead Girl.

Representative plants from each variety in each treatment are shown in figures 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 which were made June 1, 1951.

Figures 7, 8, 9 and 10 on next page.

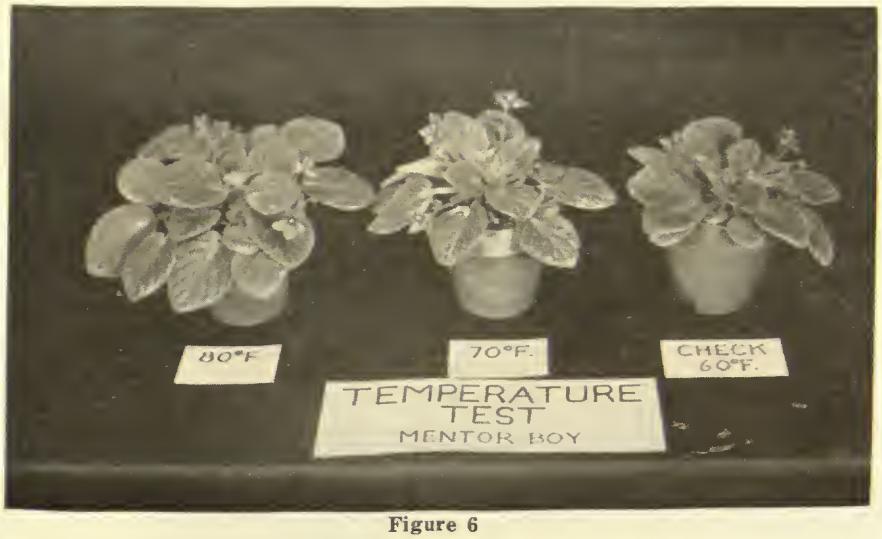
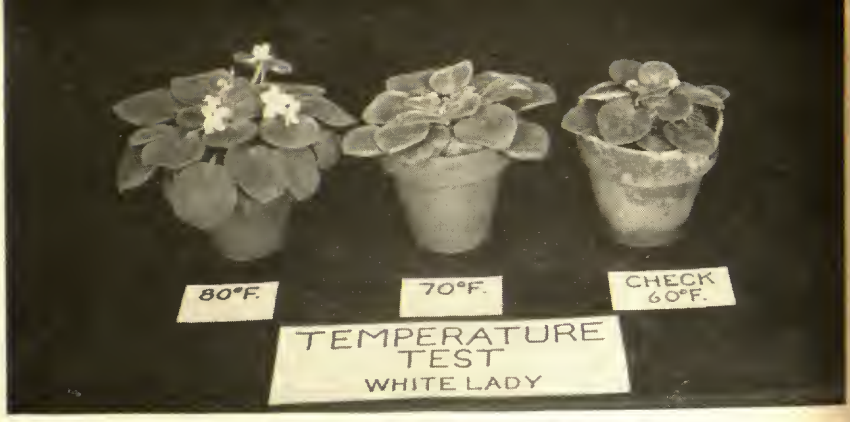


Figure 6

Figure 7



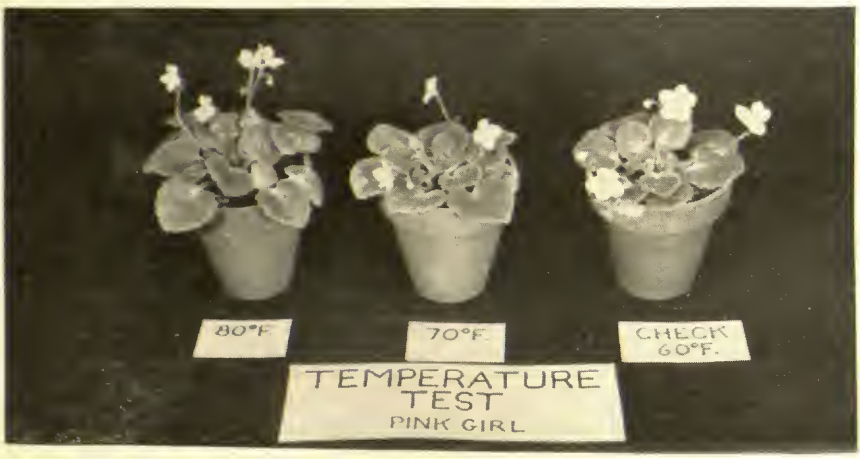
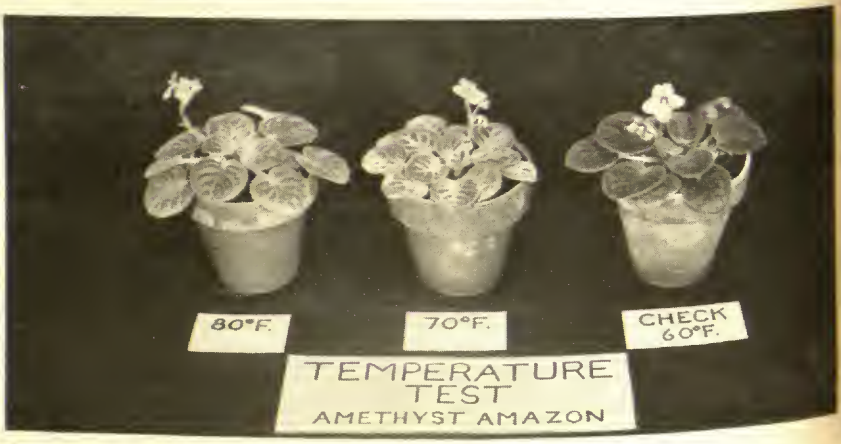


Figure 8

Figure 9



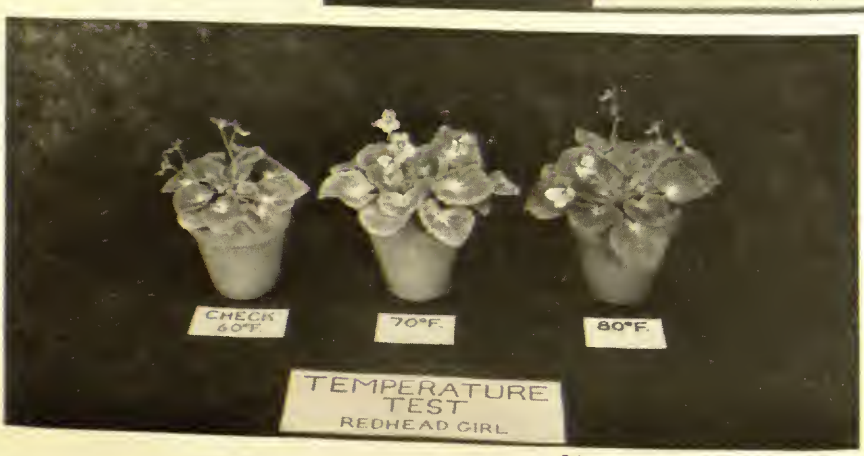


Figure 10

Table 4 shows the average number of flowers per plant in each variety and the average plant diameter on June 1, 1951.

TABLE 4. TEMPERATURE EXPERIMENT

Flower production and plant diameters

	Average flowers per plant To June 1, 1951			Average plant diameters (in inches) June 1, 1951		
VARIETIES	60° F	70° F	80° F	60° F	70° F	80° F
Mentor Boy	18.0	34.4	39.4	7.3	8.8	7.9
White Lady	7.7	13.1	30.3	5.2	6.5	7.7
Pink Girl	11.3	24.3	29.4	5.6	6.2	6.8
Amethyst Amazon	2.9	5.8	10.8	5.7	5.3	6.3
Redhead Girl	12.1	16.8	22.8	6.3	6.6	7.3

From the tables (4 and 5) it would appear that the best growth, earliest flowering, and greatest flowering occurred at 80° F. However, as several of the photographs show, the plants at 80° F produced flat, lighter colored leaves when compared to the other plants, and although measurements were not taken, it was quite apparent that the flower size was reduced at this temperature. It is felt that if this experiment had continued longer the data given in table 4 might have been different. It may be seen that in nearly every case the plants at 70° F were superior to the plants in the check plot (60° F night).

This experiment seems to indicate that the best temperature for growing Saintpaulias is about 70° F. It is interesting to note that this is about the temperature at which automatically heated houses are usually maintained during the winter months.

Experiment 3. The effect of artificial light upon plant growth and flower development.

The plants in this experiment were grown in a windowless basement where the only source of light was artificial illumination. The temperature averaged about 65° F and rarely varied more than 4 or 5 degrees in the course of a twenty-four hour period. The relative humidity was also nearly constant at about 60%. Mentor Boy was the only variety grown in this experiment. The lights were turned on at 8 A. M. and off at 8 P. M., giving twelve hours of light per day.

Table 5 shows the date the first flower appeared in each variety in each treatment.

TABLE 5. TEMPERATURE EXPERIMENT

First flowering dates

VARIETIES	60° F	70° F	80° F
Mentor Boy	March 23	March 23	Feb. 23
White Lady	April 13	March 23	Feb. 16
Pink Girl	April 10	Feb. 23	March 2
Amethyst Amazon	May 4	April 20	April 10
Redhead Girl	April 13	March 16	Feb. 23

Figures 11 and 12 show representative plants from each plant. These photographs were taken April 7, 1951.

For table 6 and figures 11 and 12 see next page.

Although table 6 indicates that the earliest flowering, most flowers, and largest plants were in the incandescent lamp plot, the photograph shows that these plants had leaves with very long petioles, giving a very ungainly appearance. Plants in the "Gold" fluorescent plot also had long petioles, but had almost no flowers.

Table 6 shows the treatments given, the diameters of plants, the flower production, and the date of first flowering in each plot.

TABLE 6. ARTIFICIAL LIGHT EXPERIMENT
Plant diameters, flower production and first flowering dates

TYPE OF LIGHT	Light Intensity in Foot-Candles	Average Plant Diameter (in inches) May 1, 1951	Average Flowers Per Plant To May 1, 1951	Date First Flowering
DAYLIGHT FLUORESCENT	100	7.9	0.1	April 27
" "	200	8.3	7.3	March 2
" "	300	8.8	12.4	Feb. 3
WHITE FLUORESCENT	300	7.9	17.0	Feb. 16
GOLD FLUORESCENT	300	10.2	0.1	April 27
BLUE FLUORESCENT	300	7.4	6.9	Feb. 10
INCANDESCENT	300	11.0	40.1	Jan. 19

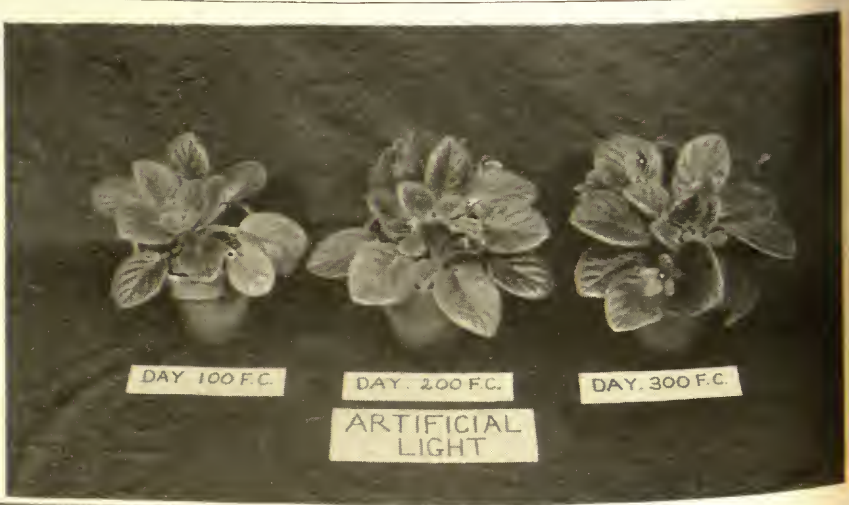


Figure 11

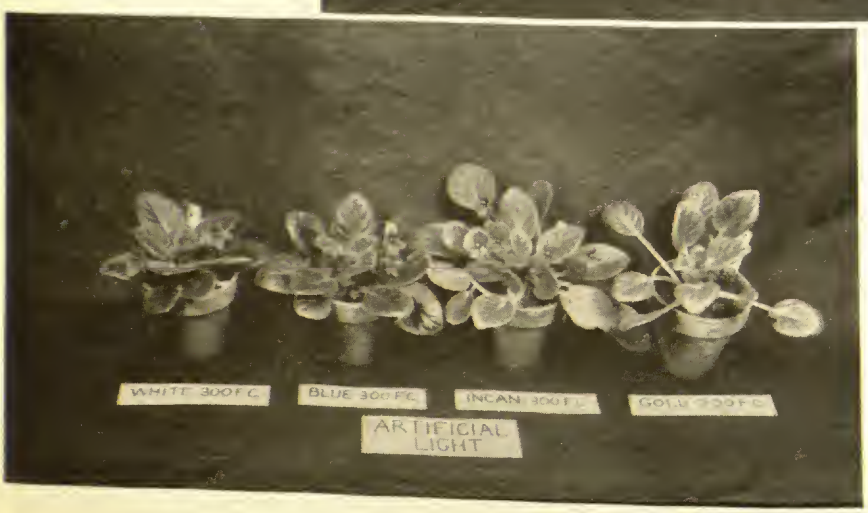


Figure 12

This experiment shows that satisfactory growth of Saintpaulias may be attained with "Daylight" or "White" fluorescent tubes giving 300 fc. of light 12 hours per day at a temperature of about 65° F and a relative humidity of about 60%. Three hundred foot-candles of light will strike the plants if a two-tube 40 watt reflector is placed 11 inches above the rim of the pots. All plants should be directly beneath the reflector because the light intensity diminishes rapidly beyond the edges of the reflector. A larger lighting fixture may give 300 fc. from a greater distance above the plants and may enlarge the area covered by a satisfactory light intensity.

Experiment 4. The effect of varying nutrition, organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen, and soil pH upon the growth and flowering of Saintpaulia.

The purpose of this experiment was to determine the optimum nutrient levels for this plant and to compare the effects of organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen upon the growth and flowering of this plant. The variety Mentor Boy was grown under the conditions shown in table 7.

Figures 13 and 14 were made June 1, 1951 and show representative plants from each nitrogen level plot.

The two most satisfactory treatments were those in which "White" and "Daylight" fluorescent tubes were used at 300 fc. Plants from these plots exhibited compact growth, dark foliage color, and abundant flowering.

Figure 13

Figure 14

TABLE 7. NUTRITION EXPERIMENT

Experimental Plan

Soil pH	Nitrate Level In Parts per Million	Potash Level In Parts per Million	Calcium Level In Parts per Million	Object Of Test
6.5	5-10	20	150	Optimum Nitrate Level Using
6.5	10-25	20	150	Dried Blood
6.5	25-50	20	150	(Organic Nitrogen)
6.5	5-10	20	150	Optimum Nitrate Level Using
6.5	10-25	20	150	Ammonium Sulfate
6.5	25-50	20	150	(Inorganic Nitrogen)
6.5	10-25	5-10	150	Optimum Potash Level Using
6.5	10-25	10-20	150	Calcium Sulfate
6.5	10-25	20-40	150	(Gypsum)
6.5	10-25	20	0-40	Optimum Calcium Level Using
6.5	10-25	20	100-150	Calcium Sulfate
6.5	10-25	20	200 +	(Gypsum)
4.5	10-25	20	150	
5.5	10-25	20	150	Optimum
6.5	10-25	20	150	pH Level
7.5	10-25	20	150	

Table 8 shows the flower production and plant diameters under the various nitrogen levels in which organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen were used.

TABLE 8. NUTRITION EXPERIMENT

Flowering and plant diameter under organic and inorganic nitrogen

	Low Organic Nitrates (5-10 ppm)	Medium Organic Nitrates (10-25 ppm)	High Organic Nitrates (25-50 ppm)	Low Nitrates (5-10 ppm)	Medium Nitrates (10-25 ppm)	High Nitrates (25-50 ppm)
Average Flowers Per Plant To June 1, 1951	19.4	13.8	11.8	20.3	17.3	12.1
Average Plant Diameters In inches June 1, 1951	7.0	6.0	7.3	7.2	6.9	6.4

Table 8 indicates that the greatest flower production was obtained when low levels of nitrogen were maintained. Plant diameters were not consistent with flower production, but in general had the same trends. Plants grew equally well regardless of whether the nitrogen was from an organic or inorganic source. It should be stated that to maintain low levels of nitrogen it was necessary to apply a nitrogenous fertilizer about every six weeks.

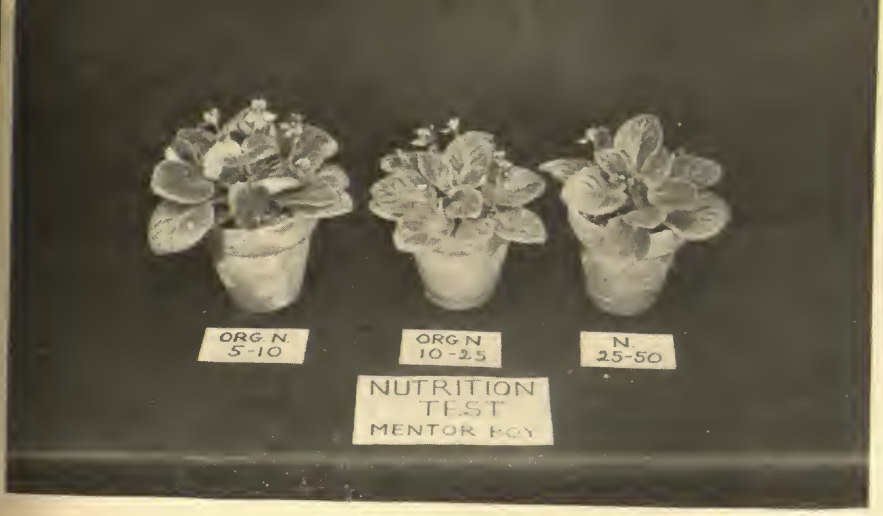


Figure 15

Figure 16

Results with the various levels of potash indicate that the plants grew equally well at all potash levels. The minimum levels were maintained with applications of potassium chloride about every six weeks.

TABLE 9. NUTRITION EXPERIMENT
Flowering and plant diameters at several potash levels

	Low Potash (5-10 ppm)	Medium Potash (10-20 ppm)	High Potash (20-40 ppm)
Average Flowers Per plant To June 1, 1951	15.9	15.8	16.1
Average Plant Diameters In inches June 1, 1951	6.8	6.9	7.0

Figure 15 and table 9 show the results obtained with various levels of potash. These photographs were taken June 1, 1951.

Table 10 indicates that the best flowering and growth was attained at medium calcium levels. Our soil testing records indicate that this level may be maintained with an application of calcium sulfate (gypsum) about every four months. A mature plant should be given a level half teaspoon of this material which should be "watered in" immediately after application. These results probably indicate why some amateurs report success in using "egg shell water," which contains some calcium. A more practical method of getting the same results would be to use the gypsum as suggested. Calcium sulfate is preferred to "Agricultural limestone" as a source of calcium because the former will not change the soil pH while the latter will make the soil more alkaline.

The reduced flowering in the "complete" fertilizer plot is probably explainable on the

Figure 16 and table 10 show the results of the calcium levels used and the result of using a complete liquid fertilizer. The photograph was taken June 1, 1951.

TABLE 10. NUTRITION EXPERIMENT

Flowering and plant diameters at several calcium levels and using a complete fertilizer

	Low Calcium (0-40 ppm)	Medium Calcium (100-150 ppm)	High Calcium (200 + ppm)	Complete Fertilizer (15-30-15)
Average Flowers Per plant To June 1, 1951	11.2	16.3	11.0	8.8
Average Plant Diameters In inches June 1, 1951	6.7	7.0	6.6	6.6

basis that this fertilizer was applied only when both the nitrogen and potash were at low levels according to the soil tests. This occasionally caused the plants to lack either nitrogen or potash, which may account for the reduced flowering.

Figure 17 taken on June 1, 1951 and table 11 show the results of growing Mentor Boy at different pH levels.

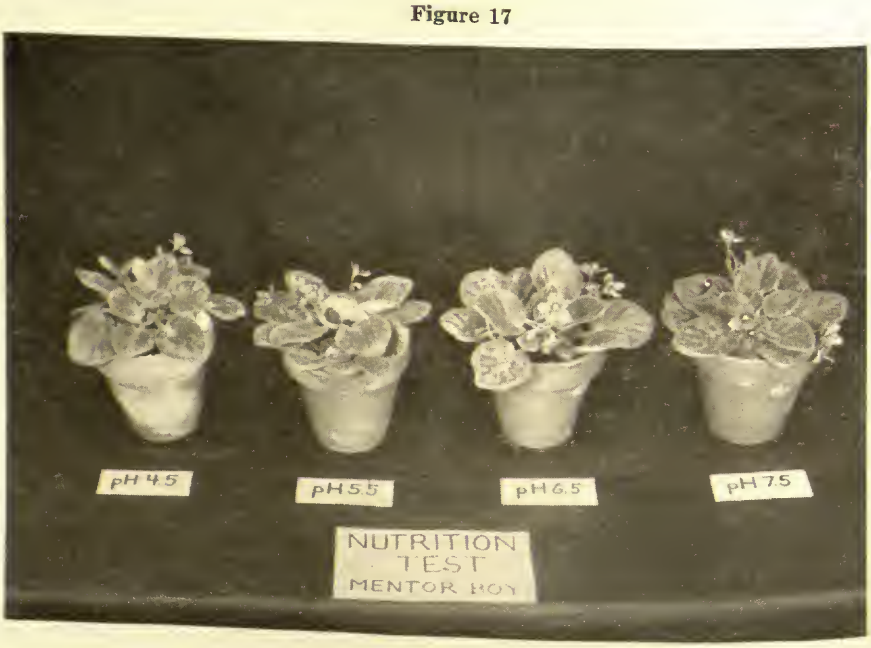
Table 11 shows that the plants are tolerant of a fairly wide pH range. It should be remembered that pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a soil, pH 7 being exactly neutral. These results indicate that the Saintpaulia probably grows best at soils near the neutral point in the pH scale.

TABLE 11. NUTRITION EXPERIMENT

Flowering and plant diameters at several pH levels

	pH 4.5	pH 5.5	pH 6.5	pH 7.5
Average Flowers Per plant To June 1, 1951	7.0	10.6	12.3	13.5
Average Plant Diameters In inches June 1, 1951	5.9	6.3	6.3	6.0

Figure 17



Experiment 5. The effect of various soil mixtures upon the growth and flowering of the Saintpaulia.

The variety Mentor Boy was grown in the soil mixtures given in table 12. Representative plants from each plot are shown in figures 18 and 19, which were made June 1, 1951.

Figures 18 and 19 on next page.

Results in this test were rather erratic but in general it appears that mixtures in which organic matter are included are superior to others. It also appears that well rotted manure or "moats" (decomposed cotton waste) are superior to the other materials used in this experiment.

TABLE 12. SOIL MIXTURE EXPERIMENT

Flowering and plant diameters using various soil mixtures

SOIL MIXTURE	Average Flowers Per plant To June 1, 1951	Average Plant Diameters In inches June 1, 1951
1 PART SILT 1 PART SAND 2 PARTS WELL ROTTED MANURE	9.3	7.0
1 PART SILT 1 PART "MOATS"	9.3	5.9
1 PART SILT 1 PART SAND	4.5	5.2
1 PART SILT 1 PART SAND 2 PARTS "MOATS"	3.9	5.7
1 PART SILT 1 PART LEAFMOLD	3.9	4.9
1 PART SILT 1 PART WELL ROTTED MANURE	3.4	5.4
1 PART SILT 1 PART SAND 2 PARTS LEAFMOLD	2.1	5.4
1 PART SILT 1 PART SAND 2 PARTS VITALOAM	2.0	4.4
SILT	1.1	4.4
1 PART SILT 1 PART VITALOAM	0.7	3.9

Figure 18

Figure 19

Figure 20

Experiment 6. A comparison of growth and flowering in constant level and hand watering methods.

This experiment was set up to compare quality and speed of maturity under the two watering systems. In the constant level plot a water level was continuously maintained one inch below the surface of a sand layer upon which pots of Saintpaulias had been placed. The other plot was watered from the top by hand in the usual way of

watering potted plants. The varieties used in this treatment were Mentor Boy, White Lady, Pink Girl, Amethyst Amazon and Redhead Girl.

Figure 20 which was made June 1, 1951 and table 13 show the results of this experiment.

Results of these six experiments may be summarized as follows:

1. Under natural light conditions Saintpaulias grow and flower best at about 1,000 foot-candles of light.

2. Saintpaulias grow and flower best at a temperature near 70° F.

3. Saintpaulias grow satisfactorily under 300 foot-candles of artificial light from either "White" or "Daylight" fluorescent lamps that are lighted for twelve hours a day.

4. This plant grows equally well when organic or inorganic sources of nitrogen are used.

5. Mature plants should be fertilized with a complete fertilizer about every four to six weeks. One half to one teaspoon of dry complete fertilizer or a liquid complete fertilizer applied according to dilution directions should be used.

6. About one half teaspoon of calcium sulfate (gypsum)) should be applied to the soil about every four months.

7. Saintpaulias grow well at a pH near 7.0 (neutral).

8. Well-rotted manure or "moats" are the most satisfactory organic materials to use in soil mixtures for this plant.

9. Earlier flowering and slightly more abundant flowering and slightly larger plants resulted when Saintpaulias were watered by the constant level method.

A microscopical study of flower bud initiation and development in Saintpaulia will be completed in a few months. A study of suspected polyploidy in Saintpaulias is also under way and may also require several months for completion.

The following undergraduate students in Floriculture at the Ohio State University gave assistance at various times in caring for the plants and collecting the data: Gene Wagner, Carolyn Piercy, Jack Kelley, Pat Johnston, Robert Hanes and Richard Zoerb.

Table 13 shows that the plants grown by the constant level method started flowering earlier than the others, had slightly larger diameters, and, in general, produced more flowers than those watered in the usual way. The constant level watering method therefore appears to have some advantages. Another advantage is that fertilizer applications are necessary less frequently. One disadvantage is that salts tend to accumulate in the upper soil levels and may eventually lead to a condition toxic to the plant. The best way to avoid this difficulty is to thoroughly water the plants from the top at least once a month. This washes the salts accumulations out of the upper soil levels.

TABLE 13. WATERING METHOD EXPERIMENT

Flowering and plant diameters under two watering methods

VARIETIES	First Flowering Dates		Average Flowers per plant To June 1, 1951		Average Diameter of plants In inches June 1, 1951	
	Hand Watered	Constant Level	Hand Watered	Constant Level	Hand Watered	Constant Level
Mentor Boy	May 4	March 2	8.4	27.8	6.1	6.7
White Lady	June 1	March 16	0.2	6.0	4.4	5.3
Pink Girl	April 13	March 16	12.0	4.8	4.0	4.2
Amethyst Amazon	May 11	May 11	9.5	3.8	4.6	4.7
Redhead Girl	May 4	Feb. 23	4.3	16.0	4.3	5.0

Mrs. Wills

Elgin Daily Courier - NEWS photo.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO MY MOTHER

Bee Wills, Ill.

So many ask me of my success with violets. I think perhaps the answer is that I love them so much, and they bring back my brave little mother to me.

I bought the first plant I ever saw, a lovely Blue Boy, for my mother, who had been a cripple since she was two years old, a victim of polio, and for the last ten years of her life, she was bedridden. She lived with my sister, and she and I tried to bring mother as much happiness as we could through the flowers she loved so much. The first plant led to others -- until she had quite a nice collection at the time of her death. She had lived with my sister, Mrs. Ed. Housen, until four months before her passing, at which time I brought her home with me, and my sister underwent an operation.

After her death, the violets seemed to bring her back to us, and my sister and I became enthusiastic collectors, and soon started hybridizing -- which brought us even more pleasure.

I want to tell you something about how mother grew a little bunch of violets. She had them on a bedside table and it was at least four feet from a window. All the moisture they got was a daily drink of her own special tea. They bloomed continually and heavily, without a great deal of light except electric lights, as she knitted constantly, often into the wee small hours, for the Red Cross. In the late war, she was almost as happy when she received her Red Cross pin as she was with her violets.

My sister and I each have around 300 varieties, -- perhaps when all have bloomed some may be alike, but they have been collected in good faith through dealers, and some of our own seedlings. I don't believe anyone follows quite the same rule in raising violets. My sister has most of hers in fancy pots -- while I grow mine in cedar knees, choals cacti stumps, and sea shells. I find they like growing in shells and wood, and flower abundantly. I find, too, that cleanliness is a great factor. I try to keep my trays spotless and spray once a month. I use soilene as a soil sterilizer, and Detex, a D. D. T. solution, for spraying.

One of my violet interests is the two African Violet Clubs here in Elgin, and the third that is being formed. I am a member of the first club that was organized, and I am an honorary member and a consultant of the other two. I am most grateful for this honor given me; and I do enjoy the association. The other interest is sharing my plants with the sick and shut-ins. This is a real pleasure too, as there seems no finer gift than African violets to bring happiness.

Photograph by Ross Hahn

MOISTURE

If you want to give your plants a boost after they have been shipped, transplanted, etc., place pots in a fish bowl. The added amount of moisture they will thus retain, and the quick response of the plants will be surprising.

What a wonderful crisp, clean, green appearance your greenhouse plants will have during the hot summer months if you will spray them lightly early each morning with the garden hose. Be sure to use the fine mist spray, as it will not bruise the blossoms or break the foliage.

In the winter, humidity in your greenhoue may be kept at a higher level if you will spray daily with warm water. If you do not have a warm water connection to which you can attach your hose, you may use a power spray, or even a hand spray if you have one large enough to be effective.

Heat dries out the air very quickly, so more than one spraying daily may be necessary.

GREENHOUSE SUGGESTION:
By DALENE RHODES

The moist atmosphere of a greenhouse makes African violets more susceptible to disease than when grown in the drier atmosphere of a house. Pots should be kept spaced in order that the air may circulate freely between them. It is important that good ventilation be provided so the air will not become stale.

TO INCREASE MOISTURE IN YOUR HOME, SAYS EDNA EDINGFIELD

We all know that African violets prefer a warm, moist place in which to grow, but during the winter months it is often difficult to provide this atmosphere in our homes. In order to create additional moisture, I place a pan on the floor under a stand of plants and pour boiling water in it, allowing the steam to permeate the surrounding air. A friend obtained the same results by spraying her plants with warm water from a window-cleaner bottle with attached spray. The plants welcome this moist spray.

NEW CHEMICALS STILL BEST INSECTICIDE

THE CASE OF THE PARATHION SPRAYS

Carroll K. Hurd

Farm-Garden Editor, Ranch Home and Garden section of the San Jose Mercury-News, Calif.

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Parathion is the most effective insecticide now in use in California agriculture but handling of this organic phosphate compound must be conducted with a thorough knowledge and use of safeguard to prevent injury.

That is the opinion of Federal State and County Department of Agriculture officials who have now revealed results of recent conferences on the dangers of parathion, tetra-ethyl pyrophosphate (TEPP) and hexa-ethyl tetraphosphate (HETP), all chemicals of the same family.

As a result, it is anticipated that these insecticides, now widely and effectively used in California agriculture, will be included in new pest control programs but with rigid warnings of toxic effects if all safety precautions are not observed.

Already parathion, 20 times more toxic than DDT, in use only a year, has proved a boon to Santa Clara Valley fruit and nut growers. According to David T. Rayner, County Agricultural Commissioner, it has been found to be the most effective insecticide available for controlling bud moth in prunes, red spider in pears, prunes and apples, codling moth in apricots and aphids in walnuts. Its devastating effect on other insects also has made it extremely valuable to vegetable growers as well.

The truth, agricultural officials pointed out, is that farmers and commercial handlers alike will have to learn to treat this family of chemicals with the same respect as they have learned in the use of arsenic, DDT and other insecticides.

"The principal need," Rayner said, "is for an intensive campaign of education through which all persons handling parathion must learn that protective clothing and equipment are to be used with these highly toxic chemicals."

Such precautions are being emphasized by chemical firms which are including safety requirements with packages, notifying physicians of chemical poisoning treatments and are repackaging bags so that they may be handled with less danger to operators.

Parathion received "a black eye" recently following the deaths of several ranchers and an agricultural scientist, all of whom it was discovered had disregarded the basic safety measures urged for the use of most toxic chemicals.

The accidents immediately led to a statement by the University of California College of Agriculture that it could no longer recommend parathion in pest control programs because of its toxicity to warm blooded animals.

Meantime, conferences in this state and by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Public Health Service in Washington, D. C., revealed that parathion and its related chemicals fall into the same category as many industrial chemicals and can be used safely with proper precautions.

Dr. J. G. Townsend, chief of the division of industrial hygiene, U.S. Public Health Service, in a special statement, pointed out that "science has not only brought chemicals to the farm but is now also helping the man who uses them to exercise proper precautions."

The investigations into the deaths of three parathion users revealed:

1. Keith Hughes, U.C. scientist at Riverside Experiment Station, applied the chemical to citrus with a speed sprayer using an experimental form of parathion. The wettable powder was noted to billow into his face during loading, and he wore no respirator; also used leather gloves which absorb the chemicals and keep it in contact with the skin. The report,

released by Allen B. Lemmon, chief, Bureau of Chemistry, State Department of Agriculture, showed that Hughes had long and excessive exposure to the insecticide.

2. A North Carolina tobacco grower sprayed with a mule-drawn rig, had no protection whatsoever, walked in the heavy mist all day. His clothing was saturated by parathion.

3. A Florida grower stirred sulfur and parathion with his bare hands, used no respirator.

As Lemmon pointed out, all three accidents could have been prevented by use of recommended safeguards.

Despite the findings, agricultural and chemical officials met recently to lay plans for preventing further accidents. Their conference resulted in the following:

1. Field use of bulk, wettable concentrates will be banned.

2. Parathion and related chemicals will be marketed in packages of from one to five pounds in size so that sacks need not be broken and can be emptied into the spray rigs with less contact and dust.

3. Dusts for field use will be limited to 2 per cent.

4. Liquid preparations will be prohibited.

5. Retail sales for use of gardeners will be prohibited.

6. Improved, sift-proof bags will be used.

7. Operators will have access to atropine, the only stimulant recommended for use in reviving persons affected by parathion poisoning.

8. Operators will be urged to use respirators, natural rubber gloves and protective clothing while loading.

9. It will be recommended that operators make a complete change of clothing and bathe with soap and water immediately following spraying. When bare skin is contacted, it is suggested it be washed immediately with soap and water.

Meantime, chemical firms are taking steps to find a material for mixture with parathion to make the insecticide dustless. They also are seeking a dye that would give operators an indication of skin deposits.

Parathion not only has proved phenomenally effective in control of many difficult orchard and truck crop pests but also is conquering many other insecticidal problems for which the older chemicals proved unsatisfactory or for which there has been no control. For some, it has proved a virtual lifesaver for farmers, just as DDT conquered the codling moth problem.

In addition to its lethal properties, parathion also has been found to present no residue problem on harvested fruit if used 30 days or more before harvesting. This is a paramount factor in valleys such as this where DDT and related compounds have been found to be cumulative and have been virtually banned from apricots following early jacket sprays.

Despite its high control of codling moth and tortrix in apricots, parathion still is expected to give way to D D T since the latter compound is considerably less expensive.

For red spider control with bud moth spray, however, it has proved almost indispensable as the only chemical that has successfully done the job. It also has proved a success in mealy bug control in pears. As an aphicide for walnuts, valley growers in large numbers turned to it during the cool weather accompanying their first nicotine sprays and found parathion more effective.

Parathion is the product of a search, stimulated by the discovery of DDT early in the war, for organic insecticides of even greater potency. DDT attained wide recognition for its outstanding insecticidal properties, but it was soon found to have limitations.

Although DDT has a low order of toxicity for warm-blooded animals and a remarkably high toxicity for house flies, mosquitoes and other insects, it also kills certain insects which are natural enemies of others and does not affect some that must be controlled. For instance, it has no effect on the red spider mite, although it controls codling moth.

Parathion was discovered in Germany during the war as diethylnitrophenyl thiophosphate. The U. S. Pest control committee abbreviated the chemical designation to parathion. Also developed there along with it was hexaethyl tetraphosphate, known as Bladan. Tetraethyl pyrophosphate, the active toxic ingredient in HETP was the product of work at the University of Chicago.

ACHIMENES -- HOW TO GROW THEM SUCCESSFULLY

Ethel Houdyshel, Calif.

Achimenes is from the Greek word "cheimaino" meaning to suffer from cold. Europeans call them "stove plants," which means "greenhouse plants." Both these names tell you they like warmth. I like the name Cupid's Bower better than Monkey Face, if you must call them by a common name They are native to tropical America. House or greenhouse culture is best, but they can be grown in the shade garden in warm weather but must never become dry as it may be fatal. They also need plenty of plant food, especially if grown in pure leaf mold as I like to grow them.

More than one hundred years ago, old world gardeners and plant breeders were carefully selecting and hybridizing Achimenes, using material that originally came from America. At one time they were very popular here but interest seemed to die. However, interest has been increasing rapidly the past few years and they have fast become popular again. There was little written about Achimenes formerly, but now one more often finds them discussed in flower magazines and books; and as gardeners learn about the charm and loveliness of this fascinating group, more of them will want to try them and will add them to their collections.

Years ago, the small red-flowered types (Coccinea section) were frequently seen, but modern evolution has proceeded from the broad-flowered purple species. The color range is pure white to deep purple with many shades of orange, red, crimson, pink, blue, yellow, and variegated. Some of the best species are Achimenes longiflora, purplish blue; A. longiflora var. alba maxima (known in the trade as just Maxima) best white kind; A. Patens var. major, a large flower of purplish rose; A. pendunculata, orange; and of course all the new hybrids being introduced now as named varieties are a must have. The largest flowers are found in the above group. In the Grandiflora group the tubercles (or "little tubers") are clustered; while in the Longiflora group the tubercles are pear-shaped bodies, growing on the ends of root-like rhizomes. The Coccinea and Hirsuta groups are late bloomers.

Achimenes should be started in March or April in a warm room. They may be started in boxes about 3 inches deep using one inch in the bottom of some material that will act as drainage, then about one inch of a light mixture of leaf mold or peat and sand to start them in, spreading the tubercles over the top of this, then covering with about ½ inch of the same mixture. Keep moist. Have temperature 60° to 65°. When 2 inches high, they should be lifted from the boxes with the material that is attached to the roots and potted up into 5 or 6 inch pots or fern pans -- 6 to 12 plants may be planted to a pot. The material used for this potting should be rich in humus and of a very open porous nature, so as to provide free access of air to the roots and at the same time allow any excess of water to pass away freely. About ⅓ of the pot should be filled with drainage material. They are shallow rooting so do not need deep pots. I like pure leaf mold (coarse) but you can use ⅓ leaf mold, ⅓ sand, and ⅓ loam. By starting before potting you will have all the plants in one pot of the same growth making an even display. However you can start them right in the pot or pan in which you intend to grow them, if you prefer. That is the way I start them, for lack of time. When the plants are about 6 or 8 inches high, you should start regular feeding. We use Spoonit. After they start blooming, they may be put in a somewhat drier part of greenhouse or garden, where the temperature is about 50° or above. They like top shade and plenty of light and air. Never let the plants dry out. Feeding should continue until plants show signs of exhaustion after flowering.

When through blooming, they should be allowed to die back gradually withholding water. When completely dormant, they can either be kept dry right in the pot or lifted and stored in dry sand, moss, or vermiculite. Store in a warm place never below 50° to 60°.

The tiny catkin-like tubercles multiply very rapidly, and by the end of the first year, you will have many more for additional pots the next season. Some varieties are very slender while others are short and pear shape. You don't need to worry if one becomes broken as each little piece will grow. In fact if you want to multiply them in a hurry break or cut them

up, but not in too small pieces or they will not bloom the first year. There are unlimited possibilities for the hybridizers in this field of plant breeding.

They are lovely in hanging baskets, and all but a very few can be grown in wire baskets. If wanted in baskets, line the basket with damp moss, add a small amount of the soil mixture in the bottom, place the tubercles with the eye toward the moss about 2 inches apart, around the basket, cover with about two inches of soil mixture, and continue until the basket is filled. Plant the top surface with more tubercles, being sure to have the outer edges of the soil higher than the center, this way it will hold water when watering the plants.

Achimenes start easily in moist soil in a warm room or greenhouse. They do not do much if kept as low as 50°. They are of easiest culture if a few requirements are given them.

Naegelias are closely related to the Achimenes, as are also the Isolomas. They have been developed by hybridization of species and by crossing with Isoloma, Achimenes and related plants. These are considered as some of the finest pot plants, even rivaling Rex Begonias and Fancy Leaf Caladiums.

Leaves of Naegelias are large, heart shaped, of rich green, mottled and veined with rich chocolate brown. Leaves and stems are covered with velvety hairs which appear green from one angle, red from another. In late summer, large clusters of tubular flowers develop from the arches of the upper leaves in shades of red, yellow and orange, heavily spotted inside the tube. A number of flowers are open at once and last a long time. They often bloom at Thanksgiving or even as late as Christmas.

The tubercles resemble Achimenes but are more like pine cones. They should be potted singly in 4 or 5 inch pots as soon as tubercles are received, in light rich compost containing leaf mold, peatmoss or vermiculite, but no manure. Store pots where free from frost until March or April when temperature should be between 50° and 60° at night. This could be the window garden, basement, or greenhouse, which should provide the right temperature to maintain early growth. Water slightly until good growth has been made, then a little manure water or Spoonit may be used. Keep moist while in full growth. Summer temperature will keep them growing, but in fall, move them in to a temperature not below 50° for extended bloom. When leaves start to yellow, gradually withhold water, after cutting the plant back, store in the pot in frost free place. Never let soil become entirely dry, nor should they ever be dug and stored dry. Don't disturb until spring when they may be repotted.

Isoloma (Tydaea). Culture the same as Achimenes. Propogated from division of tubers, cutting from seed.

Streptocarpus (Cape Primrose). Native to South Africa and Madagascar. They thrive in cool greenhouse and are of easy cultivation. Seeds planted in February to March should bloom in fall or winter. Propagated also by leaf cutting and division.

Gloxinias are natives of Brazil, a warm tropical climate, which gives a key to their culture. Probably most failures result from trying to start them or grow them in cold rooms. They are ideal plants for your greenhouse or a warm room where you grow the African Violets. They are one of the most popular members of the Gesneriaceae family. They require more light than Saintpaulias. They should never have water in the heart of the plant. None of the above plants like water on their foliage in the warm part of the day.

Episcias are also from Tropical America. They are grown in pots or hanging baskets, and propagated by cuttings or division.

All the plants that I have discussed are members of the Gesneria family or Gesneriaceae and are relatives of Achimenes. There are many more, but these, along with Saintpaulias and Gloxinias, are the most ornamental and valuable. The true Gesneria are now referred to other genera. Thus Gesneria cardinalis is now Corytholoma cardinalis. The name is more outstanding than the plant, though a few do grow them in pots, and naturally collectors of Gesneriaceae will want a plant.

It should be mentioned that the plants we call Gloxinias really do not belong to that genus but are Sinningias. Early botanists made an error and the name Gloxinia will probably forever be the popular name applied to Sinningia hybrids.

All these are relatives of Achimenes, and therefore of Saintpaulias.

VIOLETS

God made our lovely violets
They grew wild, you know,
In a far off country,
Where there is no ice and snow —
But one day, some one found them,
Brought them back across the sea —
Watered, cared for and petted them
All — for you and me.

Clara Atwood

A Chlorox plant now in good condition after treatment

Clorox Treatment

Lottie Bowman, Tenn.

I thought that my plant Commander (Commodore) had nematodes as there were large knots on the roots. The foliage was soft and hanging over the side of the pot—even the center crown leaves were soft. It was really sick looking! I decided to use the Clorox method. This is: 2 teaspoons of Clorox to 1 quart of warm water.

I gave this plant nothing but Clorox water for six weeks, and a weekly bath in the solution. After this period of time, it began showing signs of growth. In a short while the plant was very pretty, and it has grown and bloomed freely ever since. There is no sign of nematodes, and it has good roots.

The second growth or new foliage was entirely different from the original plant. It has heavy dark green leaves slightly scalloped—more on the duPont type. Blossoms are the same size and color and this plant has never stopped blooming even when sick, even though the blossoms got very small. This plant so far has not propagated. I think this is because I used Clorox over a longer period of time, but other plants have not been affected.

Since my experience with this plant, I have used Clorox on other plants, that I thought had nematodes and saved them. Ever three to four weeks I give my plants the Clorox bath. This keeps plants clean and makes beautiful foliage. I am very careful about bright light on the plants for a day or two after the plants have had a bath. I do not use Clorox on small plants; they just can't take even a mild solution. Since using Clorox, I have not had any diseased plants. I think it discourages diseases, mites, worms, etc. The only method I use for sterilizing soil is to pour boiling Clorox water over it and let it drain and I am now using rotted manure, which is a nematode breeder.

Aletha Hamilton's Planters

An oblong Plant Container with a combination of African violets and grape ivy. This planter was designed to fit on narrow window sills, and also to be used as a centerpiece.

Aletha Hamilton's line of attractive planters is designed to harmonize with home surroundings.

A recent letter from Mrs. Hamilton gave the following interesting details: "I am enclosing one of our circulars, feeling that you might be interested in seeing how our line has grown, knowing as you do that a relatively short time ago we started out with only the round Plant Grower. This was received so enthusiastically that we decided to really go into business making attractive plant containers that are also horticulturally sound. We have received many letters from customers placing reorders and telling us how much they like the containers. It has really been very gratifying. As you know, these Plant Containers came into being because, first of all, I wanted some attractive containers for my own use, and then I found, while lecturing and writing for garden club groups, that there was a great demand for this kind of container."

African Violets *GO TO CHURCH*

Alma H. Rolfe, Mich.

Since 1940, I have been Secretary of the Strathmoor Methodist Church of Detroit, Michigan. Last fall, we moved into our new $40,000.00 edifice on Schoolcraft Road. Members and visitors alike claim it to be one of the most beautiful churches they have ever entered. This church of today is our Sanctuary Unit only, the educational and recreational units to be built later.

Being African violet-minded, I could not help but visualize how beautiful these marble window sills would be adorned with African violets. For awhile, I hesitated, knowing how meticulous our officials and congregation have been as to any adornments other than those planned and placed by the architect himself. Finally, I brought some violets into my own office, feeling that surely I could plan the adornments of my own domain. One day the architect chanced to come in to use my telephone. On the window sill, near the phone, Double Neptune and Gorgeous were dripping with blooms. In a manlike fashion, he remarked about their beauty and the fact that his wife could not coax her's to bloom. We conversed a moment about some of the essential needs of violets, such as use of rain water, etc. It was not long after that, that I dared to ask timidly if I might place two very large violets in the Tower Entrance, which is the main entrance to the building. He gladly gave his permission. After that, I became bolder gradually until now I have twenty-five scattered here and there throughout the building -- two very large Red Kings in the north windows on the west stairway, six different varieties in our Upper East Room north windows, three in the Sacristy, three in another room off from the Chancel, several in hallways, but none, of course in the nave.

Several reasons have prompted me to bring my violets to church. If anything bespeaks the wisdom and miraculous powers of our Maker, surely these violets do that very thing, so why shouldn't the church be a suitable place for them to dwell? If they say as much to everyone as they say to me, all who behold them must also sense their message. The other day one of our older members came to the office, bringing with her a friend, explaining that she brought this friend for one sole purpose -- just to see my violets.

Another reason I brought my violets to church was that I coveted for them the light possibilities that these windows with diffused light had to offer. I could not possibly, in my home, offer them such a treat.

I have over two hundred plants in different stages of development. I believe my collection represents about fifty-two varieties.

I attribute much of my pleasure with violets to my careful perusal of the African Violet Magazine, which I read over and over. I am grateful for the contacts I have been able to make through this magazine. In this manner, I learned of the Atlas Asbestos Company and have used yards of their Glaswick. I use Glaswick for my plants in all stages of their development. Since Glaswick is not manufactured in a size small enough for my very young ones, I find it convenient to separate the larger wick, thereby producing fine wicks for the very smallest plants. I believe failure to raise violets centers mostly in the extent to which they receive water. I consider Glaswick a safe indicator. I do not even find it necessary to check my plants more than twice a week as to water content. When the wick is dry, I water them. If it is even damp, they should not receive water.

Other contacts made through your magazine that have helped me include the Harmon Nursery of Ohio, Fischers in Linwood, N. J., McFarlands in West Chester, Pennsylvania, Frentzen Floral Gardens, as well as the Hyponex Chemical Company. I enjoy the Question Box. It is interesting to note that others may face problems similar to mine. In the June issue, the article "Can African Violets Summer Out of Doors" interested me because I move mine out around Memorial Day where they remain until Labor Day. I am fortunate in having a nook on my porch which has north and east exposure to which my plants seem to adapt themselves in a very satisfactory manner.

After all is said and done, I believe raising African violets provides the most interesting phases of any hobby a person could possibly have. My friends do not cease to wonder why -- in addition to my work as Secretary of this church -- I ever undertake such a laborious hobby as raising violets. What they do not understand is that this provides my relaxation -- this dealing with soil, sand, peat moss, vermiculite, Glaswick, labels, Hyponex, rain water, etc. To me, this is fun!

But Nobody . . . .

HATES VIOLETS

By Tunia (Helen Pochurek), Ohio

Do you dislike certain flowers or do you love 'em all? Just think a bit and I am sure that you will find one at least that you can not get enthused over. If you will go back to your early childhood, I believe you will find the answer to that dislike. One group recently got together and discussed the subject.

There was one member who will have nothing to do with daisies. They brought back memories of an irate neighbor's tongue lashing she had received as a small child, when she walked along the flower border and child-like, caught each daisy between her fingers and yanked it off the stalk. There was another who dislikes hydrangeas, she remembered that at the time of a small brother's burial, huge trusses of hydrangeas bloomed on the adjoining graves.

My good friend, Emily Hodan, joins my husband in a mutual dislike of zinnias. In our home, each Spring the same argument arises - - - are you going to plant those pesky things again? (I always do!) My own pet peeve among flowers is that tall, rangy, yellow perennial — Golden Glow. I am wondering what the association is — can it be, because they grew along the back fence and shed, where as a small child, I was terrified by the 'Indians' that participated in the yearly medicine show? They held their show on the lot to the rear of ours, and used our shed to change costumes in.

On the other hand, do you adore red roses? Maybe it's because your first corsage happened to be of red roses. The faint odor of verbena brought back memories to Jean Kopac — it reminded her of an old friend's garden. Mignonette is a favorite of mine, even tho' it is rarely p'anted anymore. Memories of my favorite Aunt and her Victorian parlor, where a huge bouquet was placed on the marble top table. Today, we would call it a mass arrangement, but no matter what else that bouquet contained, Mignonette's sweet scent always perfumed the air.

Surprising enough, several people have spoken to me of being allergic to African violets. Can it be so? The dear little things would, seemingly, not hurt a soul. It is the pollen of plants that usually does the damage and, if the pollen sac is not ruptured, how can the little dears be offensive? Can it be that the fine dust that may collect on the hairs of the plant is the offender? The husband of a collector friend says they definitely irritate him and cause him to sneeze whenever he gets close to them. So - - - they are placed in a room that he will never enter. Poor hapless violets - - - to be treated to such a fate.

Just about everyone I know has a preference in violets. So many prefer the 'girls' to all others. Some like the Supremes and duPonts best. Men usually like any violet, just so it's purple. Lena McKay of our club is especially fond of white varieties and well she may be, for she grows them to perfection. Camie Conant will choose a plant with interesting foliage - - - then ask, what color is it? It must have a lovely dark, quilted or netted leaf or she doesn't want it. Me - - - why, I just love them all!

TODAY . . . MISS VIOLET PAULIA

I interviewed Miss Paulia
On Monday . . . and she told
About her lovely wardrobe packed
Away in budding fold.

On Tuesday . . . I could hardly wait . . .
The folds had neatly spread
So tiny bits of purple sheen
Could panel through, instead.

By Wednesday . . . clustered petals peeked
Above her leafy stock;
Then strutted out in gay design
Of gorgeous velvet frock.

On Thursday . . . bright-eyed Violet
CROWNED QUEEN OF PERFECTNESS
Stood sun-jeweled, robed in unveiled charm
And fragile loveliness.

Today . . . I see beyond the bud;
Beyond the bloom. Content . . .
Miss Paulia's own heart holds fast
The Holy Sacrament.

Grace M. Hartley, S. D.

Blue Boy's Life

Harriett Reed Clemo, Iowa

About fifteen years ago I bought my first violet at a greenhouse where they told me to keep it "always wet."

Of course, it died of crownrot. I definitely concluded "always wet" was not the correct way to grow violets.

Later, I started three leaves of Blue Boy Improved in water; all rooted and prospered when moved to a two inch pot of sand.

When repotted in a three inch pot, they began blooming and have bloomed continually ever since, -- in fact, are never without blooms.

About twice a year, each develops a show such as you see in this picture with fifty or more blooms displayed.

Those three plants are over twelve years old.

For several years they sat in a north window of my house, where it was not unusual for strangers to stop, even coming into the yard to admire the violets, often coming to my door and asking for a closer study of those plants, whose blooms often measured two inches across.

I used common, but good black garden soil and rotted cow fertilizer (not tea) and watered from the top, wetting all the plant, using luke warm water and watering sparingly every day.

I knew nothing at that time of the various methods proclaimed so broadly today. However, since trying most of them, I have returned to the simple method I used at the beginning.

I am caring for over eight-hundred extremely healthy violets in a small solarium, heated with gas in a small heater which often goes out filling the place with gas fumes, which the violets seem not to notice.

I am using artificially softened water, which I consider harmful.

I find the African violet much simpler to grow than any other plant or weed I have ever tried to grow!

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MRS. W. H. ODOM
753 E. Eastwood
Marshall, Mo.

Soil Sterilization With Steam

Beatrice Fortney, Ohio

Leaving the 1949 Convention with the cardinal commandment, "Thou shalt sterilize thy soil," ringing in my ears, I spent much of the train ride home searching for an easy but effective way to do it. Suddenly the idea flashed; I put everything else in my pressure canner, why not soil?

The canner is a 14 quart size. The wire rack is left in the bottom and about one-half inch of water added. Into this I place a discarded milk pail (12 qts.) full of soil mixture, adjust the top and set on the stove. When steam exhausts, the vent is closed and the soil processed at 15 pounds pressure for one hour.

My soil formula is rather elastic but near these proportions:

3 parts good garden soil
2 parts sand
1 part peat or leaf mold
1 part compost
A little charcoal
A sprinkling of vermiculite

When this is thoroughly mixed, it feels "spongy to the touch. I usually char a piece of oak and reduce it to pieces the size of peas for this purpose. No water is added to the soil before it is sterilized and the steam only keeps it moist. It may be used for potting as soon as it cools to room temperature.

Smaller amounts of soil could be done in suitable sized cans placed in a four or six quart cooker. Thirty minutes would be sufficient time for processing. There is some order with this method but since it is quickly done, this unpleasant feature is reduced to a minimum.

Many who follow the principles of organic gardening will discourage sterilization of soil, believing vital elements to be destroyed by it. But one who has struggled through a seige with cyclamen mite doesn't invite a bout with nematodes.

Mrs. Fortney with some of her collection which she grows in a south window. Muslin glass shades regulate the amount of light and give protection from the sun when needed.

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QUESTION BOX

LAURETTA L. LITTIG 3016 Jefferson Ave. Davenport, Iowa

QUESTIONS

Is soot deposited in a chimney by an oil-burning heater of any benefit to African violets?

What is meant by ever-sporting Fantasy, mentioned in article in June magazine, page 42?

Helen L. McGill, Mich.

Where can I get directions for pollinating my violets? Would like to experiment but don't know where to get the information.

Louise Kline, Pa.

I would like the opinion of some of the African violet members as to the cause of multiple crowns. I think it is caused by a root injury or formation. My reason is that I had crown rot or some disorder on several plants which I had to repot, and disturb the whole plants. When they started to grow, they developed multiple crowns.

Edna M. Agnew, N. Y.

I have a number of plants coming into bloom, grown from seeds. It would be interesting to carry them two or three generations. How do you know which plants of one generation to use or pollinate? Should they be selfed or crossed?

Emily Hartman, Mo.

How can plants be kept fairly small and still have lots of blooms? Does Hyponex primarily affect the growth of the foliage or size and number of blooms? Will insufficient light make plants stop blooming and develop long stems?

Mrs. Hugh C. McInally, Mich.

Some time ago I purchased a violet marked "Mottled Hybrid." The leaves are large, egg shaped and get all sorts and shapes of white markings on them -- look like green marble. Blossom is very large and white with lavender edge. I have never seen such a plant described in the magazine. It is so lovely. I wish someone could tell me the name of it.

Mrs. Don Otto, Iowa

On February 3rd I started an African violet leaf and the first blossom opened July 3rd. There are three good sized plants full of blooms and buds in a 2½ inch pot with mother leaf still attached. Is this unusual, and do you know what the time record is for an amateur raising blooming plants from a leaf? I started the leaf in water in the east window. As soon as the little plants started I put them in soil taken from an old hot bed. I added a little sand, peat moss, and a few wood ashes. I put the pot in the north window with a glass over it. It grew very fast and in no time I discovered buds.

Frances Ross, Ohio

I have a white violet which is producing a plant at the end of a bloom stem where the blossoms came. It is now two and one half inches across and has a second set of leaves. What should I do to get the plant to mature? Is there such a thing as a trailing violet and if so, where do the plants form?

Mrs. F. G. Backstrom, Nebr.

Where can I buy Carolyn Rector's book on African violets? They do not have it here in the book stores.

I have six S. grotei plants growing nicely but I do not know how to proceed as they lengthen out. Will they require a larger pot than the regular ones as they grow longer? Should I let the side shoots alone or pick them out as one does on other violets?

Mrs. Frank Whiting, Mass.

Could you tell me why my violets do not blossom? I have twenty-five healthy plants with beautiful foliage but they don't blossom. I feed them Hyponex.

Mrs. Bruce Fineout, Mich.

I have a plant grown from a leaf from a Blue du Pont. This plant is full of blooms and one of the best reds I have. The leaves are like the Blue du Pont but much prettier and notched. Is there a Red du Pont?

Amy Rhodes, B. C. Canada

Since several of my friends and I have received mite infested plants from highly recommended and supposedly reliable dealers, I have decided the only safe thing to use is sodium selenate. My collection of about 300 plants with about 1500 small ones coming on for sale, is much too large to take chances of mite infestation. Also reading in the magazine convinces me sprays are not a complete cure, and that dips are not either.

But since I also read that "food plants should not be planted in soils containing sodium selenate" etc., I am wondering how to advise my customers. What if a baby or a pup should pick up a blossom or leaf from a sodium selenate treated plant and chew it up -- what would happen? I would appreciate the opinion of readers experienced in the use of sodium selenate.

Alice Tilton Thorne, Juneau, Alaska

Please tell me what makes the violet leaves curl under and hang over the rim of the pot?

Mrs. J. C. Backus, Tenn.

ANSWERS

Care of S. grotei

To Mrs. Frank Whiting, Mass.

There isn't any difference in the actual growing culture of the S. grotei from that of the varieties but there is a problem as you suggest in training the plants to best advantage. We have had them in most every type of pot and conceivable method of supporting devices. I believe the most attractive planting to date was five or six plants set in a twelve inch hanging basket type pot. It had three holes in the pot edge and wires thru these holes held the pot from ceiling. We let the plant grow without pruning or nipping of suckers or crown leaves. The procumbent stems fell over the sides of the pot and some were held erect by the wires. This planting was pictured in some of the magazines and was truly a beautiful thing. I have never tried to keep all the suckers removed as a few left along the stem fills in and rounds out the appearance. I think about the best way to handle one plant is to support it by tying to a stick. However, a three inch pot is inclined to be top heavy as you suggest. We have left the plants as they grow, run all around and among and over rosette type plants. Of course, as S. grotei leaves get older, they fade and curl but as they are cut off a sucker will usually sprout and fill in the lower gaps. By pinching out crown the plant will sucker all over even at flower stalks where a flower stem has been pinched off, that is, leaving the flower stalk but pinching the single flower stem.

S. grotei has two cultural advantages over varieties. It will pack well as the petioles are more or less wiry, not brittle, and the leaf blades and foliage are not so hairy but slick, and will take spray without damage or dis-coloring to the foliage. If given a lot of light the internodes are shorter but the leaves tend to fade from strong light. Less light will lengthen the

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Rush, N. Y.

plant but flowering will be reduced. After well established it will stand considerable feeding if light is good, and foliage will get luxuriant. Leaf blades will be as much as four inches across and petioles up to ten inches long.

Harvey Cox, Calif.

Soot from Oil Burner

To Helen L. McGill, Mich.

In my opinion the soot from an oil burner would not be good for your plants. Soot from a coal burner is good as it intensifies the colors.

Helen Pochurek, Ohio

Mottled Leaves

To Mrs. Don Otto, Iowa

No doubt your violet is one of the thousands of unnamed seedlings that Ulery has developed. It might be a variegated one. Often they do not become white but will be two shades of green in the same leaf.

Helen Pochurek, Ohio

Flower Drop After Watering

To Harry Gensemer, Ill.

I have heard from Mrs. C. De Greve who some time ago wrote in about flower drop. She says she has solved the problem by spraying her violets twice a week with a fine mist spray, using warm water. This created a higher humidity. Like Mrs. De Greve's plants, my blossoms would stay on as long as the plant was dry but just as soon as I watered them even to the wilting stage, they'd all fall off. I've tried spraying mine with a fine mist just before watering and not one blossom fell off so it did the trick and solved our problem.

Mrs. Geo. R. Gaines, Ill.

Artificial Gas Effecting Blossoms

To Mrs. Newton Stephens, Iowa

We are in the gas business and while we use natural gas in our town, I have friends in the surrounding country who use artificial gas, and find that in all cases where flowers refuse to bloom due to use of gas of any kind they are getting fumes from their gas. Open flame burners will cause this as will an unvented oven or burner that is not adjusted properly. Flowers and canaries will react to the fumes where the human will get accustomed to it and notice it very little. However, if my flowers failed to bloom and I thought perhaps it was the gas, I would immediately have some one look for an improperly adjusted burner, an unvented opening or a leak. I have flowers blooming all winter, including African violets, and have no trouble. We use gas for heating, cooking, water heating and refrigeration.

Elsie M. Laswell, Kans.

Leaves on Broken Stems

To Katherine Lavell, Wis.

Sometimes it happens that plants sprout all over a plant as you describe, It may result from an injury to the leaves or stem. Sometimes it follows those injuries which all good violet growers hope to avoid -- those produced by mites or other insects, and even frost injuries when temperature gets too low. Be suspicious first of bugs. If you are convinced there aren't any, congratulate yourself on having something freakish to gloat over.

Helen McGill, Mich.

Use of Sodium Selenate

To Col. C. K. Darling, Wyo.

I find it best to use sodium selenate on a damp plant. Water your plant one day and use sodium selenate the next day. In some cases plants will wilt slightly after a sodium selenate application but they revive in a few days. It is best to keep the treated plants away from strong sunlight for a couple of days after application.

As to having numerous seed pods on a plant. I do not think it does any harm. Actually, propagation is one of a plant's purposes in life.

R. L. Rannie, Ont., Canada

Eversporting Fantasy

To Helen McGill, Mich.

Eversporting in the broadest sense means that Fantasy blossoms on the same plant will be different from each other and there is no way to foretell what the next bloom will be like.

In leaf propagation it will be found there is no set pattern to production of purple streaks and dots in the blossoms on the one hand nor to mutation into blues or pinks on the other. As a matter of fact, since we introduced Fantasy in 1949, we have been successful thru continuous re-selection to produce several outstanding strains, the best of which are Pink Fantasy, a real deep pink with Fantasy foliage and Fantasy Supreme, immense blossoms of lavender, with intensified streaks, rays, and dashes of purple with beautiful large rounded foliage. However, these will not be available until later.

Albert Behnke, Behnke Nurseries, Md.

Drooping Leaves

To Mrs. J. C. Backus, Tenn.

I always felt the light was the cause of my violet leaves drooping around the pots. The ones growing on the low benches grow upright. I removed some of the paint at the top of my windows and they don't droop so much now. I do know that if you set the plant down and let the light come down on the plant it won't be long before the foliage raises again. It is also just the nature of some plants to have a downward foliage growth.

Maxine Wangberg, Iowa

JACQUELINE PRICE SMITH

This new member's address was lost at the time she made application for membership.

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RICHMOND SHOW

Mrs. Werner C. Reelitz

Under the dignity of ancient trees, in historic Byrd Park, through a lane of pink and white dogwood, just putting forth buds, one approached a gleaming white building -- Memorial to the Armed Forces of World War I, in Richmond, Virginia. Keeping holy watch, high above, was the singing tower and in such quiet splendour one might anticipate the beauty awaiting within the Shrine, but could scarcely visualize it.

In this serene and hallowed place, the Richmond African Violet Society held its annual violet show on Saturday and Sunday, April 14th and 15th of 1951.

The vista from the doorway of one huge room was breathtaking in its loveliness. As far as one could see, there was a glorious parade of violets. Pink, lavender, orchid, red, blue and purple in many tints and tones, tied together with pure white, were all blending and harmonizing in a very melody of color.

The tables were gracefully roped with green and neatly tagged so that even the newest novice might know upon which particular beauty he feasted his eyes.

There were six to eight gracious and charming hostesses on duty at all times; to protect the precious plants, to greet the visitors and to answer the many eager questions.

There were two hundred and three exceptional exhibits. Among the dear familiar varieties, there were several new ones. All were interested in and curious about the strange habits of "Saintpaulia grotei", and "Geneva Rainbow", brought to the show by the judges, created much enthusiasm.

There were two long tables devoted entirely to an extensive educational exhibit. On one table was a large basket of soil mixture with ribbons running to small containers of the ingredients; to clearly picture for the uninitiated just the things the violets really like: sand, lime, gravel, vermiculite, peat moss, charcoal, superphosphate, Hyponex Plant Food, and well rotted cow manure.

There were plants too upon this demonstration table, and containers: plastics with wicks, vermiculite pots, and the lovely brass "Tri-Color" Jardiniere awarded as prizes.

The second educational table attracted many people, who had innumerable questions to ask. Here were seedlings of all ages, from very tiny babies up to beautiful blooming plants. One shy plant was trying to tuck its seed pod under a leaf. There was a collection of the minute African Violet seed, and there was a blooming plant, growing in water and fed with Hyponex. Here also was a plant growing in vermiculite. There were rooted leaves in water, and leaves sprouting young plants, growing in potted soil. Suckers were displayed, which had been taken from mother plants and rooted in water.

There was a small but amazing display by the Juniors. Some of the mature blooming plants exhibited in this group would put most would-be violet growers to shame.

The adults vied with each other in the class for artistic display and the results were lovely indeed.

A class for smallest blooming plants was really surprising. It was thrilling to see these small youngsters so courageously and efficiently bearing bloom.

In another room a plant sale was held, and plants of every size, from leaves and rooted leaves to blooming plants in four inch pots, of many named varieties, were offered to the enthralled public.

There were over seven hundred visitors, some from other states, including Arizona, West Virginia and Florida.

Prizes were awarded the "blue ribbon" winners. "Bi-Color", exhibited by Mrs. T. J. Taylor of Chesterfield Gardens, was judged the best plant in the show.

A ballot box was placed at the front door so that visitors might express their opinions. "Red King" proved the most popular and "Blue Jane", a plant with multiple crowns, was voted second best.

The Judges were Mrs. L. R. Hoy, Jr., of Arlington, Virginia, President of the Metropolitan African Violet Club, and Mrs. W. O. Husted, of Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Gibson C. Phillips was Show Chairman and Mrs. Joe T. Mizell the Co-chairman.

Kodachrome slides were made and will be shown at the regular meeting in October.

Altogether this was a triumphant and beautiful show and many people stated it was a revelation to the people of Richmond, for most had no idea of the unlimited possibilities of varieties in the African Violet. If one can judge by the interested inquiries which have followed the show, many converts were made.

The Richmond African Violet Society is flourishing with a membership of sixty-two. It is anticipating a new and fruitful phase of work and fellowship, under the leadership of the officers elected for 1951 and 1952, as follows:

President,	Mrs. George Ross
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. W. H. Flippin
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Fred Kidd
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. W. G. Roach
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Kenneth Lord
Treasurer,	Mrs. Joe T. Mizell

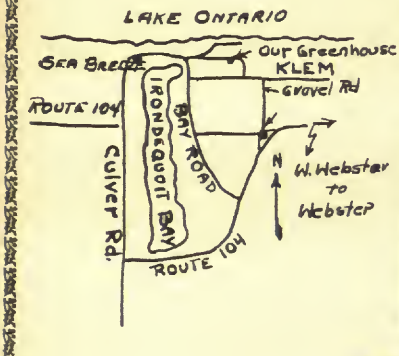
Mrs. George Ross, the President, appointed the Chairmen of Committees, as follows:—

Telephone,	Mrs. H. C. Smith
Membership,	Mrs. A. N. Tuttle
Hostess,	Mrs. John T. Pangola
Entertainment,	Mrs. D. J. Stradling
Violet Show,	Mrs. Gibson C. Phillips
Historian,	Mrs. G. F. Pfitzner
Publicity,	Mrs. W. L. Mason
Horticulture,	Mrs. William J. Gouldin

"Merry Christmas"

To All

From Gent's



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2 MILES BEYOND SEA BREEZE

Follow Precautions in . . . using PHOSPHATE SPRAYS

Carrol K. Hurd, Ranch Home and Garden section of the San Jose Mercury-News.

Reprinted With Permission

Accidents last year as the result of careless use of organic phosphate pesticide compounds led to several deaths and have led to special warnings to spray rig operators when using these materials.

The precautions apply to parathion, tetraethyl-pyrophosphate (TEPP), and hexaethyl-tetraphosphate (HETP) and are issued by Federal, State and County officials.

Growers are urged to heed the warnings under all conditions. They are as follows:

1. The most important precaution to observe in handling parathion is to avoid breathing the wettable powder while opening the bags and introducing it into the spray tank, and to avoid inhaling the spray mist during operations. Work to the windward. While handling the wettable powder, and when spraying or entering sprayed areas, wear a respirator.

2. Wash hands, arms and face after handling parathion and before eating or smoking.

3. If you are working under conditions involving considerable spray drift or dust, wear protective covering. A light plastic raincoat gives good protection. Protection may also be provided by using a cellophane sheet—a hole large enough for the head is cut in the center of the sheet and it is then simply draped over the shoulders. Wear a washable rubber or plastic rain hat.

4. Never handle parathion wettable powder with the bare hands. If you must handle the powder with the hands, wear natural rubber gloves—never synthetic rubber, leather or cloth gloves. The same precautions apply to the use of parathion dusts.

5. Atropine is the emergency antidote for parathion poisoning. Atropine is obtainable only on a doctor's prescription. The doctors in your neighborhood should be informed regarding the symptoms of parathion poisoning and the treatment therefor. Consult your doctor and arrange with him for a prescription of atropine grains 1/120 (0.5) mg.) to be kept on hand for emergency use. Never take atropine or any similar drug until after warning symptoms appear. The symptoms of parathion poisoning include headache, blurred vision, weakness, nausea, cramps, diarrhea and discomfort in the chest. If you feel any of these symptoms while spraying with parathion, quit spraying, take two atropine tablets at once and go to a doctor. Do not spray again with parathion or other organic phosphate insecticides until your doctor has examined a blood sample for parathion effect. When you go back to the job be sure to observe all the precautions outlined. In no cases give morphine to person affected.

NEVER GIVE UP

Is collecting African Violets a curse?
A hobby, I'm sure, but what is worse
Than to get the fever that can't be cured.
New names, new plants, new colors, and
Should I start them in water, peat, or sand?
Do you prefer windows North, East, or West?

Which size pots do you like best?
First came blue, then pink, white, and red.
No yellow? But there's Lavender-Pink instead.

Then Orchid and Bi-Color, a beauty, too,
Oh dear, what am I to do?
I wouldn't have minded so much I think
Until one day my heart did sink.
For there in the center of a Pink Beauty
Was evidence I had shirked my duty.
First I sprayed them, then I dusted
I'd get that Cyclamen Mite if I busted.
My determination knew no bounds
'Twas certain death for those pesky hounds.
Today it's quite a different story
I have 95 plants less, by gory.
Maybe collecting Violets is a curse
But there are many things that can be worse.
Empty tables, empty shelves—instead
I'd rather see their pretty heads
Swaying so gracefully to and fro!
Bye now! Violet chasing I must go.

(This poem was written by Mrs. John Miller of the Springfield, Mo. African Violet Sociey, after an experience with Cyclamen Mite. We hope it will be an encouragement to anyone else who might have had the same experience.)

VIOLET TOWN U. S. A.

Mary Alice Herman, Mo.

I have a wonderful little town next door to me. It's a violet town and the members are just as interesting as any people I know.

Since age should come before beauty, I guess we should start with Granny Old Lace. Poor old thing, she is so small and wrinkled and so slow, but once in a while when her rheumatism isn't bothering her too much she bursts right out in bloom, and is a pleasure to all who see her.

From Granny's place, I think we should go to the country club district. Here the social set consists of the duPonts, Supremes or Amazons and some new members who just moved into town. Lady Geneva, Emperor Wilhelm and the Fringette Family. Oh yes, I almost forgot Red Waves.

The country club section is rather small because they don't have many children up there, to or three at the most, while Blue Boy and Girl down on the other side of the tracks think nothing of having nine or ten.

Now, let's leave the country club section and go down Main Street. There is Mentor's store. Since Mr. Mentor passed last year, the boys have been running it and doing a fine job. Look at the window display, — won't the ladies of the town look nice in those fancy flower pots?

Look out, here comes the Sailor Boy and Girl twins. They sure are wild ones. There's Judy and Frieda crossing the street. See how they look away from each other, — used to be the best of friends until they both fell in love with the Admiral. But he really isn't worth it! Has a girl in every port.

Let's go over to the Drug Store and have a coke and talk to Mr. Redland. He knows all the latest. "Hello, Mr. Redland, coke please. Well, what do you know that is new? Oh my, what a shame! Mr. and Mrs. Curley duPont's little 6 month old is in the hospital. Had to be operated on for crown rot. We what! Well, I am from Missouri. You gotta show me." Says we are going to have a new family move into town, and its members are yellow.

Well, we had better be going. We are on Third Avenue now. That large building on the left is the dirt mill, the largest industry in town. Next to it is the flower pot factory. The little house across the street belongs to Red Head, mother of Red Waves, though you would never know it. Since that daughter of hers hit the social register she wouldn't be seen on Third Avenue.

The yard with all the kids in it belongs to Ma and Pa Blue. Look at the house, about ready to fall down. But they don't care. Sure are a happy bunch, healthy, too, drink lots of Hyponex.

Oh dear, here comes Mrs. Boles, let's get out of here. That old gossip will keep us here all night. Well, I am getting tired and know you are too, so I will say good night and hope to see you again sometime in Violet Town, where there is always something new going on.

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Don't wait for drooping, curling or dropping leaves, or small white cotton masses, to warn you that your Saintpaulias are insect infested!

Chances are that by the time you discover these minute pests it will be too late. For mealy bugs are less than one-fifth of an inch long. And the devastating cyclemen mite and broad mite are *invisible* to the naked eye! They feed on the lower side of the leaf and frequent the junction of leaf and stalk. But they are easily and quickly controlled by Marvel Spray from famous Ogen Laboratories.

As Marvel Spray is an ovacide, it penetrates the waxy shells of these insidious enemies of the African Violet. It is immediately effective and a great time saver! Yet Marvel Spray, which also is used for Gardenias, Ivy and other indoor plants, is non-poisonous to humans and household pets. Highly concentrated (125 to 1), it is so economical any plant lover can afford this protection.

Get Marvel Spray from your garden or hardware store. If your dealer can't supply you, send $1 for large 4-oz. can—postpaid. Also free new folder "How to Grow African Violets." Write today. Rose Mfg. Co. (Makers of Tri-Ogen—World's Largest-Selling Group of "Rose Grow-ers"). 514-101 Ogen Bldg., Beacon, N. Y.

MARVEL Spray

HOTEL SHERMAN, *A City within a City*

On the night of October 7, 1871, the great bell in the Chicago court house yard clanged the ominous note of fire which destroyed the city, and along with it, the Sherman House.

Today a new and modern structure, a twenty-five story giant now known as the Hotel Sherman stands at Clark and Randolph Streets, offering its thousands of yearly visitors virtually a "city within a city."

With a battery of more than 1,200 employees and 1,500 rooms, convention halls, private dining rooms, a two-story private dwelling house on the roof which a President of the United States opened and dedicated, visiting guests of the hotel can be "at home away from home."

Many restaurants are handy in the hotel where guests may dine in leisure or "grab a sandwich," all in the confines of one building -- with specialization and dramatization in foods, shelter and entertainment the prime aim.

Once a guest who visits Chicago by automobile parks his car in the spacious Hotel Sherman garage or arrives by cab he is "at home."

Among the many facilities available is a laundry with the most modern equipment and large enough to serve an entire city of 30,000 population; a modern eight lane bowling alley, the only hotel in Chicago having this feature; a radio in every room and television sets in each suite; a drugstore in the lobby; the coast-to-coast "Welcome Travelers" radio show broadcast daily Monday through Friday and features Tommy Bartlett; the best in service facilities; and a public relations office offering free services to guests and conventions, and dozens of other services. Enough electric power is generated by the hotel to light a city of 40,000.

The hotel's guest rooms, dining rooms, ballroom, spacious exhibition hall and restaurants are among the most modern in the country.

Only recently the Hotel Sherman completed a remodeling, redecorating and refurnishing program of all guest rooms and restaurants at a cost of more than $1,000,000.

Guest room decorations are the most modern with ebony furnishings, bronze fixtures and a trace of Chinese influence in the motif. Upholstered chairs are ebony finished with movable and washable cushions in red plastic. Bronze lamps of new and original design, never before used in hotel furnishings, lend handsomeness to the decorations.

One of the many outstanding new features is the extra large and roomy beds. Twin beds are arranged end-to-end, or located at right angles to each other, with bookcase headboards separating them to afford privacy. This idea was originated at the Hotel Sherman more than fifteen years ago by the late Ernest Byfield, president of the hotel for many years, who originated a new advertising slogan, "Twin Beds With Privacy."

A new type telephone installation on the headboards prevents wire entanglement.

All in all, the Hotel Sherman provides one of the most interesting histories of the growth of a great American institution. The history of Chicago and the growth of the Sherman is a dualism unique to America.

One can live at the Hotel Sherman in a style of the most agreeable luxury, equalling anything found anywhere, and at a modest cost.

POTTING SOIL
for
AFRICAN VIOLETS

Steam-sterilized, well balanced, friable and rich in organic nutrients. Pleased customers letters prove excellent quality

1 - 3 lb. bag $1.00 postpaid.
2 bags $1.75 postpaid
West of Mississippi add 25 cents postage
Planting instruction included
SHREDDED SPHAGNUM MOSS, ideal for propagating leaves 6"x12" bag tightly packed 75 cents

SUNNY ACRE FARMS
MOUNT SINAI, N. Y.

BIRD BATH ROCK GARDEN

Marie Kenny, Penna

May I tell you of my indoor Rock Garden? Who knows what others may have around the house to make a perfect setting for some of those little nameless violets, that otherwise, they may be tempted to discard.

The birds did not seem to appreciate the concrete bird bath in the yard, as there was a natural pond not too far away. So last fall it was brought into the house and filled, first, with soil and pebbles in the bottom. Then I gathered ferns and moss from the woods, adding a few suitable stones, a few sempervivums and filled all other spaces with little nameless violets.

This apparently was a good idea, for they are all growing beautifully and most ready to bloom. I am anxiously awaiting to see the different varieties in bloom among the rocks, moss and ferns.

Have you tried using aluminum foil on top of baby food jars for rooting leaves? The foil seems to stay in place better than paper.

Do you ever paint old zinc mason jar lids, to use as saucers for two inch pots? They may be painted any color to suit, and it is easy to keep small plants moist in this manner where it is not possible to use larger saucers.

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED —

from many crosses of many varieties, $1.00 for approx. 300 seeds. Planting instructions included. If interested in Extra Special Crosses, $3.00 a pkg. Send for list.

FRIENDLY GARDENS
New Bedford, Pa.

LADIES SAVE $$$

Why pay high prices for new varieties? Grow your own from —

FRENTZEN'S SELECT LEAVES OR SUPERIOR ROOTED CUTTINGS.

Fresh cut leaves of standard varieties 10 for $2.50 Postpaid.

Rooted cuttings of standard varieties 10 for $5.00 Postpaid.

Fresh cut leaves of choice new varieties 10 for $4.00 Postpaid.

Rooted cuttings of choice new varieties 10 for $7.50 Postpaid.

Pot Grown Plants .75c - $2.00. None higher our list contains over 125 of the best standard and new varieties, most in bud or bloom when shipped.

UNUSUAL HOUSE PLANTS

Most complete list of "out of the ordinary" plants including Double Geneva Begonias, Calla Lily Begonias, etc.

GROWING SUPPLIES

We list all the time proven growing aids plus anything new under the sun that has priven it's merit.

SEND FOR OUR COMPLETE UP TO THE MINUTE LIST TODAY. WHEN IN SOUTH JERSEY, PAY US A VISIT, YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

WHOLESALE **RETAIL**

FRENTZEN FLORAL GARDENS

309 LAKE AVE. **PITMAN, N. J.**

An Experiment with Fluorescent Lights

Pearl Arnold, Tenn.

First, let me say that I am an amateur when it comes to raising African violets. But I love them! I have read everything that I could find on growing them. Incidentally, in my ignorance, it seems to me that about every article gave different growing instructions. Though I always manage to get something helpful from anything I read or hear about them.

In the Autumn of 1949, Alma Wright (who needs no introduction to African violet fans) gave a talk in my city. Included in her helpful information on African violets, was the fact that African violets can be grown in basements under fluorescent lights. That set me off! I studied the article by Mrs. Stillwell that came out in the African Violet Magazine about the same time. I asked plant experts questions on the subject and got nothing but discouragement! I purchased first an ordinary 20 watt fluorescent utility fixture with two white bulbs in it. My husband hung the lights three feet above the table for the African violets. It was plugged into an extension cord that was run through a small hole in the floor and the cord was plugged into an outlet upstairs on a little back porch, so I did not have to go down into the basement each time I turned the lights on and off. I plug the cord in at 7 a. m. and pull it off at 9 p. m. every day—unless I forget it for short periods. This I seldom do, though a time or two, I have left in on all night, with no noticeable results.

I usually set the plants on tall juice cans which naturally bring them nearer the lights, but those on the table do quite well.

I put very small plants under the lights at first. They grew rapidly and began to bloom in a few months. There are not so many blossoms as on those grown in daylight exposure but the blooms are much larger—about all of them look like Supremes. The leaves on those grown under the lights in the basement are far superior in every way.

Droopy plants will often perk up in a couple of weeks when placed under the lights in the basement. Several with crown rot were cut off at the dirt line and re-rooted in shallow bowls of water. Some even bloomed in the water before I got them back into the dirt. It is an ideal place to put re-potted plants until they get over the shock of change.

I think the secret of the healthy growth is the even temperature and more moist air of the basement.

I was so pleased with my fluorescent light experiment that I have bought two 40 watt utility fixtures with the white bulbs and intend to put my 20 watt fixture on a tiny porch this winter and use it for extra light for begonias. I have never had anything in my life, for the same money (or much more), that has given me half as much pleasure and enjoyment as my fluorescent lights for my African violets.

IDEAL FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS OR OTHER HOUSE PLANTS.

Feeds water and plant food directly to roots thru Fiberglas Wick.

Water only once each 7 to 10 days. Made of Styron plastic in seven beautiful colors.

MARBLED RED, GREEN, BLUE, OR YELLOW. ALSO CLEAR IVORY, MOTTLED LAVENDER, OR BRONZE, ALL WITH BLACK BASES. Makes EXCELLENT CHRISTMAS GIFT.

4" pots, 2 for $2.15, 6 for $5.50 ppd. 5" pots for larger plants, 2 for $3.25, 6 for $8.00 ppd.

Moneyback guarantee of satisfaction.
DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

KENNEDY SALES COMPANY

4299 Pacific Avenue

Detroit 4, Michigan

REGISTRATION REPORT . . . .

Neil C. Miller

PART I

The following applications have been received during the period June 26, 1951 to October 4, 1951. No objections to registration are apparent to the Committee.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

Mrs. Abbot 7-25-51
Mrs. Hazel Abbott
427 W. Perry Street
Belvidere, Illinois
"Leaves are large, curled, and crenated; of intense velvety-green bronze on upper side which seems to show through, stems are green and red and very flexible. Blossoms are blue-purple and a little crinkled."

Lovely Lady 8-6-51
E. H. Thomas
461 Bridge Road
Walnut Creek, California
"This is a seedling of unknown origin. The package of seed was secured from an eastern commercial house with no special notation regarding the grower. We raised only two plants from this entire package of seed. One of the plants was very ordinary while the other one was outstanding by the time it was in a two and one half inch pot. It is somewhat on the order of Amethyst or Lavender Lady but is is far superior to both in size of flower and size and quality of leaves."

Pink Prince 8-7-51
E. H. Thomas
461 Bridge Road
Walnut Creek, California
"Sport of Pink Beauty which was discovered in a flat of Pink Beauty which has been transplanted from rooted leaves. The leaves of the mature plants, and frequently on young plants, are outstanding; many of them have the basal margin united so that they look like green calla lilies. Leaves dark green in color, some what of the Amazon or Supreme type in texture. Flowers are large, deep pink, fully equal to the Amazon Pink. It is inclined to crop its flowers but when it does bloom it does it profusely. I think this is the best pink I have ever grown."

Fairy Dancer 8-9-51
Mrs. Josephine R. Sebera
Goodrich Road
Clarence, New York
"Well shaped plant with typical foliage of Mentor Boy. The blossoms of this plant are the distinctive difference, for they are a lovely light orchid, with pencil edge and rays deeper orchid, and each petal having a fluted appearance. They are carried on long stems, rather limber, so that they really dance in every chance breeze, and when in full bloom really remind one of fairy dancers."

Heartsease 8-9-51
Mrs. Josephine R. Sebera
Goodrich Road
Clarence, New York
"Young plant, light green, with a large white spot at the base of the heart shaped leaves. When more mature the leaves darken to a medium green, and it blooms with a lovely deep violet-blue bloom, and is a most prolific bloomer."

Royal Velvet 8-9-51
Mrs. Josephine R. Sebera
Goodrich Road
Clarence, New York
"Lovely ruffled foliage, and a true deep purple bloom, it is a distinct improvement on Purple Prince, which is of a similar color bloom in the same exposure."

Queen of Hearts 8-27-51
Mrs. Watson S. Green
541 Denise Road
Rochester 16, New York
"A very compact miniature girl-type plant with short petioles. Leaves: dark green and glossy on the top with large white splotch near petiole, light green underneath, deeply scalloped, heart shaped, Bloom: two tone orchid rising well above the plant on eight inch stem, eight in a cluster. Rather slow grower."

Curly duPont 9-20-51
Mrs. Robert L. Henry
201 East 67th Street
Kansas City 5, Missouri
"Sport of duPont Lavender Pink. The young plant is rather slow of growth, but as it matures the new leaves are curly and ruffled, making it most unusual and attractive. The rich wine blossoms become two toned and are often larger than a silver dollar. They are deeper in color, larger, and more frilly than duPont Lavender Pink."

PART II

The following applications were also received during this period. It is impossible to tell from the data submitted, whether these plants are first generation seedlings or whether they have been vegetatively propagated sufficiently (at least two times) that application for Registration can be accepted upon them. They are being published under "Committee Protest." This means that if further information discloses that the plants are first generation, hence non-registerable, that fact can be published in a separate section of a future report; but if the plants are disclosed to have been sufficiently vegetatively propagated the registrants will not have been denied the right of early publication.

Dream Girl Supreme 6-27-51
Mrs. Lulu Hastings
Florence, Indiana
"Leaves are very attractive, a rich dark green color on top and a very light green on the bottom with green veins. The foliage is unusually heavy and stiff, a true Supreme, the immense white blotch which often times extends more than a third of the length of the leaf makes it a lovely girl type leaf. The very young leaves are evenly scalloped and some what round, but as they grow they change in shape and have a large scallop (often times more than an inch in length) at the tip of the leaf with many overlapping segments along the remainder of the leaf. Some of these segments measure seven-eighths of an inch in length and join the leaf by less than

a fourth of an inch. At this stage of growth there are very distinct white spots at the base of these segments and the leaf measures about two and seven eights inches long and two inches wide. When fully matured these scallops have most all grown out forming a somewhat round leaf with even scallops except perhaps a few deeper scallops at the base. The petioles, of upright growth, are about two and one half inches long, light green with red shading. The flowers, somewhat cupped and with ruffled edge, grow well above the foliage on very sturdy five inch stems lasting over a long period of time. The blossoms, usually about six to the bloom stalk, measure one and one half inches across and are very dark velvety plum bi-color."

Fuchsia Plaid* 8-9-51

Mrs. Florence Reichman
7938 Madison Drive
St. Louis 14, Mo.

"Seedling, duPont Red x White Lady. Leaves, dark green, light green underside with some pink, red stripe on petiole. Blossoms, some single some semi-double, some marked, some have creamy white petals on the semi-doubles; overall plaid effect."

Purple Glory* 8-9-51

Mrs. Florence Reichman
7938 Madison Drive
St. Louis 14, Mo.

"Sport of Mentor Boy. Resembles Mentor Boy and Neptune. Leaves, top, dark shiny, light green at base; bottom, reddish veins very prominent; quilted when mature. Blossoms, dark purple."

Oros Candida* 8-17-51

Mrs. Frank Oros
R. D. 1
Wadsworth, Ohio

"Seedling, White Lady x Unnamed White Seedling. Slightly hairy, fluted, heart shaped leaf. Pure white blossom. First prize winner at Akron Show, April 1951."

Oros Crimson* 8-17-51

Mrs. Frank Oros
R. D. 1
Wadsworth, Ohio

"Seedling, Red Head x Dubonnet. Resembles Red Head. Leaves, dark green with reddish vein, edges wavy. Maroon blossom. Blue Ribbon Winner at Akron Show, April, 1951."

Red Wing 8-25-51

Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha, Nebraska

"A very pretty red that holds its color. A better red -- larger flower -- than the other reds so far."

Orchid Wing 8-25-51

Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha, Nebraska

"--leaves, just about same shape as Red Wing, only they are not so large nor so dark green. Flowers are same shape and very large, but are orchid in color."

Red Rave 8-25-51

Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha, Nebraska

"--small or medium plant, mature plants are just about seven inches across. Deepest dark red color. Blossoms are a little like Merkle's Red, but the plant is different -- Girl Leaf, deep green, large cream center."

Paradise 8-25-51

Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha, Nebraska

"--odd and cute. The flowers look like they are looking down at one, they are odd shape also. It is a small plant, good bloomer."

Eclipse 9-4-51

Miss Florence E. Yocum
Muncy, Pennsylvania

"Seedling, Red Head x Blushing Malden. Leaf shaped like Red Head, but longer and thinner. Flowers on long stem; flowers large and stem red-colored. Color is lavender, darker than Jessie but lighter than Lavender Lady."

Pennsylvania Lavender 9-4-51

Miss Florence E. Yocum
Muncy, Pennsylvania

"Sport of duPont Lavender. Tall flower stems, very pretty foliage. Larger than America, some flowers measure two and one half inches across. Better bloomer than the duPont strain."

Rose Ellevia 9-4-51

Miss Florence E. Yocum
Muncy, Pennsylvania

"Seedling, Spooned Neptune x Rosy Blue. Spooned leaf, but not so deeply quilted as Neptune and more round like Rosy Blue. The flowers just come above the foliage but cover the whole top of the plant and are a clear rose that never fades off like Rosy Blue."

PART III

NAME RESERVATIONS

The following name reservations have been made during this period:

Blue Parasol	Little Boy Blue
Bonny Maid	Little Old Lady
Buttons and Bows	Pin Up Girl
Fairy Queen	Queen Geneva
Goddess of Love	Sandy Mac

PART IV

PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

It was announced in the June 1951 issue that all applications for registration would, in the future, have to be accompanied by a written description of the plant, which description would be published along with the application. This was demanded by Society membership, and is a service to which they are entitled.

But it has been very difficult to get applicants to submit the desired kind of description. They have been too long or too short, or failed to indicate in what ways the plant is superior, etc. Practically every description printed above has been edited, to a greater or lesser extent. Every effort has been made to preserve the registrants "description intent" in the editing process, but in several instances this was very difficult to do. The Registration Chairman is sorry if any plant has been slighted in editing the registrant's description, but will assume no responsibility therefor. The responsibility of furnishing a publishable description rests upon the applicant.

Four of the plants in Part II, those marked with an asterisk (*) were not accompanied by a written description of any kind. The Chairman composed the de-

scription from the material on the card. This is a service which will be provided just this once, the chairman will not write any descriptions in the future, and any applications for registration received which are not accompanied by descriptions will be published as Name Reservations only.

To help in preparing a plant description the following requirements should be kept in mind:

1. It must be in terms that the ordinary grower or hobbyist can understand, it need not be botanical.
2. It must be brief as possible, and must not in any case exceed two hundred words.
3. It must point out clearly and definitely in what ways the plant is superior, and if comparison can be made with a known variety the points in which the applied for plant is better should be plainly stated.
4. Excessive claims (such, for instance, as huge blossom size) should be avoided.
5. Such expressions as "Everybody who sees this plant just raves about it" or "Everybody that has seen this plant wants a leaf from it," should be avoided. Those statements may be true and may indicate that the plant is superior enough that it should be registered, but their descriptive value is nil.

And, while it is not necessarily a part of the description, the number of vegetative reproductions through which the plant has gone must be stated somewhere, either on the application, in the description, or in other accompanying material.

PART V

PROTESTS AND CORRECTIONS

Numerous letters received have pointed out that the name "Queen of Hearts" had been carried by a plant exhibited at the 1950 convention in Philadelphia. It was evident that the name should not be used again as shown in the June report. Mrs. Hastings has agreed to substitute the name "Caprice" for the name "Queen of Hearts" on the original application. In the meantime, Mrs. Green has filed an application on the original "Queen of Hearts, and that is listed in Part I above.

The Mahr Company, of Des Moines, Iowa, who filed the application on "Sea Queen" asked that an error in the original application be corrected. Mrs. Ferne Kellar had been listed as the originator, and was so published. Mrs. F. W. Grammel should have been listed as the originator.

Please make the proper notations on your copy of the Registration Report published in the June 1951 issue.

PART VI

REGISTRATIONS BECOME PERMANENT

No objections have been filed on any plants published in Part I of the March 1951 Registration Report, so these plants now become permanently registered.

AUTOMATIC - WATERING PLANT-GLASWICKS

4" wicks, 7/32", ¼" and ⅜ inch diameter 15c each. Use 7/32" diameter wick for 4" pots. Write for bulk prices.

JOHN P. TOBERMAN

4400 Bellaire Boulevard
BELLAIRE, TEXAS

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

J. A. PETERSON SONS

3132 McHenry Ave.

Cincinnati 11, Ohio

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Wholesale shipments only. Dealers write for our 1951-1952 Price List.

DO VISIT US WHEN YOU ARE IN OUR AREA

SUPPLIES FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING

INSECTICIDES

NNOR, BHC, Sodium Selenate, Red Arrow, Optox, Optox Special, Methoxychlor, Napthalene Flakes, Black Leaf 40, Chlordane

FUNGICIDES

Fermate, Fungicide A, Arasan, Anti-Damp, Dual Fungicide

FOR MIXING POTTING SOIL

Charcoal, Ground Limestone, Leaf Mold, Peat Moss, Steamed Bone Meal, Superphosphate

MISCELLANEOUS

Plastic plant labels, metal foil, Vitamin B-1, vermiculite, Rootone, wicking, Humidiguides, plate glass

Patronize local violet dealers who handle any of these products. The supplies that they don't carry are available by mail from me.

Write for catalogue. If you sell violets ask for Dealer Price List also.

NEIL C. MILLER

LAYTON'S LAKE

PENNS GROVE, N. J.

SOLANGE'S VIOLETS

VARIEGATED AFRICAN VIOLETS
AND ALL THE
LATEST VARIETIES

Send for free list

Visitors welcome, located on U. S. Route 20

SOLANGE SLIVKA

N. Ohio St. Fayette, Ohio

ISOLOMA

TRY A CUTTING

THEY ARE EASY TO GROW

Louise Smouse, S. C.

Cuttings are not hard to start and are highly recommended. Break off a slip and root in water or other rooting medium in the same manner as for African violets. They are very easy to get to grow. When the cutting seems to be doing well and is properly rooted it may be potted.

Rhizomes are best planted in loose fibrous soil similar to that used for Saintpaulias. They soon produce shoots thru the soil, if kept in a warm sunny window in the wintertime. They should not dry out . . . but should be kept slightly moist. Do not keep them too wet.

An Isoloma makes a rather large plant, usually growing to the height of two feet. It will need to be staked to hold it erect with good form.

Tender Loving Care

Boyce M. Edens, Ga.

A short time ago I was visiting my good neighbor Paul Gaertner, genial nurseryman and owner of Peachtree Floral Company, Atlanta, Georgia, in his greenhouses. We were discussing the care essential in good growing of African violets when Paul came up with this remark: "You know, some folks just naturally kill their African violets and other house plants too, with TENDER, LOVING CARE." And how I do agree with him!

Apparently our good member, Russell Gray, does too. Russ owns and operates Russward Saintpaulia Growers in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He issues an attractive price list of the many varieties he grows and thus offers for sale, periodically. The News Letter, a really helpful and unique feature of his February 1951 price list, carries the following question from one of his customers and Russell's answer to it.

"Q. How must I take care of a variegated violet? Do they need more fertilizer than others?"

"A. Well, for one thing you baby it. They're kind of a pain in the neck. The more variegation there is on them, the more sickly they are. They waste away and die if you DON'T fertilize 'em, and their roots are so tender that you often kill 'em if you DO fertilize, so choose your poison. If by any chance you take such good care of them that they flourish, like as not the things will start to grow all green with no variegation at all. In other words, lady, enjoy it while you can."

Now, aside from the many vicissitudes encountered in growing variegated saintpaulias—the albinos—mentioned by Russ, I think his expression, " . . . you baby it," aptly describes the Tender, Loving Care thing I started out talking about. Don't baby them, just see that they have reasonable weekly care and all of your African violets will richly repay you.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Their Care and Propagation

By HELEN B. GILBERT, M.A.

★

You can grow **beautiful, healthy, flowering plants.** This illustrated book gives **step-by-step directions.**

Only $1.00 postpaid

★

WILLSON PRESS BOX 6A PHELPS, N. Y.

ORDER BY MAIL, IF YOU WISH

AFRICAN VIOLETS 35c 3-$1 10-$3

Started Plants — Ready To Pet

THESE 35c EA., 3—$1—Double Dutchess Sapphire Blue Boy, Blue Bird, Blue Girl, Sailor Boy, White Beauty.
THESE 50c EA., 9—$4—Neptune, Purple Prince, Amethyst, Blue Eyes, Du-Pont Blue, Lavender Pink Ionantha, Kewensis, Mentor Boy, Norseman, Red Head Sky Blue Blue Treasure, Red Bi-Color, Von Dietrick, Viking, Lavender Lady.
THESE 70c EA., 6—$4—Violet Beauty, Sailors Girl, Ruffles, Red King, Blue Velvet, Orchid Girl, Pink Giant, White Lady Supreme.
THESE $1 EA., 6—$5—Lady Geneva, Double Orchid, Double Neptune, Double Light Lavender, Double Light Blue, Gorgeous, Pink Girl, Red Girl, Lavender Girl, Purple Girl, Orchid Girl.
THESE $1.25 EA., 6—$6.50—Fantasy, Sunrise, Rose Purple, McFarland's Blue Warrior.
Free Descriptive List. Enclose Cash, Check or Money Order, plus 15c postage, packing. Ohio residents 3% Sales Tax. Orders $1 or more sent C.O.D. — Free growing instructions with all orders.
Violet Soil 50c pkg. Vermiculite for starting leaves, 50c pkg. Post Paid. Visit our Green Houses. Return for refund, if not pleased.

ROSEBUD FLORAL CO.

351 N. Burgess Ave. Columbus, O. RA. 7671

(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PIGEON EDITOR

Dear Pigeon Members:

Greetings to all you nice Pigeons. Again it is time to assemble the hints that I have gleaned from the Pigeon letters that have come to me. If just a few of these hints are new to someone, then I feel that the work and time needed to go through your letters has been worthwhile. Please continue to send me your hints, so that I may pass them along.

Sincerely,
Helen Pochurek

A teaspoon of crushed limestone in the bottom of pot gives my violets a lift. I have also watered my plants with a solution of 1 tea cup of lime to 3 gallons of water.
Nellie Miller, Napton, Mo. Unit 39

Make 4 thicknesses of newspaper about 3 inches wide. Wet well and wring dry. It can then be pushed under plants to cover soil when dipping them in an insecticide solution. Papers are pliable and easy on plants.
Mrs. A. J. Brady, Laclede, Mo.

HELEN POCHUREK
14225 McCracken Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio
Homing Pigeon
News Editor

Your seedlings planted in vermiculite will be short, stocky little plants if they are kept in a covered dish and given plenty of light. If kept in subdued light, they tend to get leggy.
Martha Husted, Washington, D. C.

Surgical tape with name written on in ink, is fine for those leaves you wish to label. They can be put on either top or bottom of leaf.
Mrs. Milton Eckhardt, Baltimore Md. Unit III

Hazel LaMar of Cheverly, Maryland has painted every pot in every window of her home a medium, dark green. She also uses zinc lined jar tops (with porcelain removed) to set her plants in. These are also painted green. Her windows are some of the prettiest I have ever seen. The painted tops of the pots also prevent petiole rot.
Your Editor

Use discarded jar rubbers on the rim of your pots to end petiole rot. The rubbers can be pulled up from the bottom of the pot, using different sizes for the different size pots. They will lie flat on the top of pot and be inconspicuous .
Mrs. A. Brady, Laclede, Mo.

I am having wonderful success growing plants in a sawdust and soil mixture.
Dalene Rhodes, Atlanta, Ga.

I have found leaves root the fastest for me in Perlite. I have tried just about everything and its Perlite for me.
Your Editor

If you plan to be away during the hot summer months, for a week or so, pick off all flower and bud stems that would be opening during your absence. During hot, muggy weather, blossoms remaining on leaves will often rot instead of drying up. When they rot on or between the leaves they will rot a leaf or even a plant in just a few days.
Hazel LaMar, Cheverly, Md.

This is a stunt for the fluorescent growers. Many of us could use more fixtures

GLADYS CANNER
Creek Rd. Rt. 1,
Herkimer, N. Y.

Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

If you wish to join a group, or if you wish to withdraw from one, please communicate with Mrs. Canner.

but the cost of them has us down. With a little bit of work by friend husband, it is easy to make one fixture do the work of two. Have two tables side by side and have hooks over each table. Use the light on one table for 12 hours -- then unhook and use over other table for the next 12 hours. Most lights are used about 12 hours at a time, so that with this system your lights would be burning 24 hours over two tables. For us, a 9 to 9 schedule fits very well.

Your Editor's husband

Here is a trick to use on those plants that like to hug the pot. Let the plant get dry enough so that the leaves are limp. Make a wide cardboard collar to fit under the leaves and on which the leaves will lay. Put the collar on from the bottom and gently ease the leaves up until they are level with top of pot and collar is in position. Then water well. In a few weeks, plants will be normal again and collar can be removed. I have used this method for many large plants that seemed almost hopeless.

Hazel LaMar, Cheverly, Md.

A layer of sand on top of the soil in your pots keeps them from drying out too fast. This is especially good when a vacation of a few days comes along.

Edna Bartels, Ferguson, Mo. Unit 25

SPECIAL — 7 ounce 15 - 30 - 15, completely soluble plantfood (Value - 50c) free witth each $1.25 KAPSULATE.

TIMING IN PLANT GROWTH LAID TO BLUE PIGMENT

Basic Substance Studied by Federal Scientists

Reprinted by courtesy of the Washington Evening Star

Thomas R. Henry

A blue pigment in all plants is responsible for time of flowering and habit of growth. It has been determined by three Agriculture Department scientists.

This pigment exists in such minute quantities that it has been impossible to isolate the substance by any chemical means.

It may turn out to be one of the most basic substances in nature—second only to chlorophyll, the green pigment in leaves which initiates the action of photosynthesis and makes life on earth possible.

Chlorophyll makes it possible for plants to use the energy of sunlight to transform carbon and hydrogen into starches which are the essential fuels for all higher life. The newly demonstrated pigment apparently plays the same role in the phenomenon of photoperiodism.

Compared to Eye "Purple"

It is compared by Drs. H. A. Borthwick, M. W. Parker and S. B. Hendricks of the Beltsville (Md.) experiment station of the Bureau of Plant Industry, to the substance known as visual purple in the retina of the eye which makes vision possible.

While the pigment cannot be extracted from any higher plant, it appears to be quite similar to a coloring material found in blue-green algae which constitute much of the scum on stagnant water and are among the most ancient forms of life now extant.

It long has been known that many plants respond with extreme sensitivity to the lengths of the periods of light and darkness to which they are exposed. This affects primarily their manner of growth. Some grow tall in darkness and some short. Others behave exactly the opposite. Similarly, their times of budding and blossoming and consequently, fruiting are affected.

One of the first discoveries made by the Beltsville scientists was that, contrary to all previous ideas, the length of day in nature or the time of artificial illumination in the greenhouse, made no difference. Everything depended on the length of night or unbroken darkness.

Growth was unaffected if plants were darkened during part of the day. It was very notably affected by very brief periods of illumination during the night.

Light Bands Studied

Drs. Borthwick, Parker and Hendricks then tried to determine what particular light bands in the sun's spectrum were responsible. They found that the rays absorbed were red light which is absorbed by a certain definite shade of blue and that a very small amount of this specific light could bring about the effects which had been observed.

There has been some discussion of an intensified effort to isolate the elusive pigment with the hope that crop growth could be notably affected by injecting it into plants.

Of this the Beltsville scientists are skeptical. They point out that it is quite probable that the substance is necessary only to start off the reaction which eventually may involve the whole physiological system of the plant and that, above the minimum requirement which must be fantastically low, the actual amount present would make little difference. In the same way, they point out, human vision would not be improved by increasing the amount of visual purple in the retina.

Measured by Nature

Presumably, they believe, the required amount has been very delicately measured out by nature. It acts as a catalyst, they believe to set into action another chemical substance yet to be identified, which controls time of flowering.

The same blue pigment, they believe, may be present in some animals and be very

important in some phenomena of animal life. It is somewhat similar, although certainly not identical, with a pigment known as ptero-bilin which has been isolated from the wings of cabbage butterflies. A quite similar material also is found in the shells of some birds eggs.

Other research has shown the influence of day length on reproduction in some animals, on the time of moulting in birds, and on the hair color and fur quality in mammals. These responses may all be initiated by the action of certain red wave lengths of sun light acting through a blue pigment. There can be little doubt, the scientists believe, that they are on the trail of one of the most important links between sunshine and life and one of the prime requiremets of life on this planet.

IMPORTANT TO MEMBERS

As Chairman of the Committee on Show Preparation and Judging I wish to correct a statement made by Charles J. Hudson Jr., in his article on "Fancier African Violets" in the Nov. 1951 issue of Popular Gardening. He stated that at the Dayton 1951 National Show the Society did not allow plants grown under fluorescent lights to be judged by the same scale of points as were other African violets, and that special classes were being written for those plants.

The Society adopted at the Annual Meeting in Dayton, Ohio April 8, 1951, a recommendation that all Saintpaulias be judged by the same scale of points regardless of growing method. See Member's Handbook, page 16 for details.

Ruth G. Carey, Chairman

CHICAGO AND YOU FOR

1952

But

NOW IS THE TIME

To

Groom The Old Favorites

Grow Your Seedlings

Develop Specimen Plants

And

WE DO MEAN **YOU**!

Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd. St.
Perry, Iowa.

VIRGINIA BEACH VIRGINIA

The Princess Anne County African Violet Society held its first show at the Paramount Restaurant at Virginia Beach, Virginia Beach, Virginia on April 11 from 2 to 9. There was no admission charge. In addition to the display there was one table reserved for sale plants.

There were numerous door prizes which had been donated by the merchants of Princess Anne County. Over one hundred plants were on display.

In the year that the club has been organized the membership has grown to thirty-five members.

Officers for the club are:

President,	Mrs. Harry F. Ames
Secretary,	Mrs. Laurence Lockwood
Treasurer,	Mrs. H. C. Hutchinson
Publicity,	Mrs. D. Y. Malbon
Corres. Secy.,	Miss Mildred McClanan

THE FLINT SOCIETY

The Flint African Violet Society held their last meeting of the season on July 12, 1951 at the home of the newly elected President, Mrs. I. E. Clement.

Mrs. James Atkins, retiring president asked for the officers reports and expressed her gratitude for the services of the officers the past two years.

Plans were discussed concerning a display of African violets at the Yard and Garden Club Show September 8th and 9th in the I. M. A. Auditorium. Mrs. Frank Dilley is chairman.

The following new officers were elected to take office in September:

President,	Mrs. I. E. Clement
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. William Jaynes
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Ellen Fritters
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Alice Bryant

The club presented the retiring president, Mrs. James Atkins with a gift.

ST. PAUL SOCIETIES

The Groveland Park Pixies African Violet Club of St. Paul Minnesota, have elected the following officers:

President,	Mrs. A. E. Einen
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. P. J. Frawley
Program Chm.,	Mrs. W. R. McAfee

This is the first group organized in St. Paul and now has a membership of eleven, with meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month at 1 o'clock. The members have been working in the U. S. Veterans Hospital tuberculosis ward and are teaching the men to grow African violets. Helen Van Pelt Wilson's book was purchased and presented to them as were pots, soil, leaves and Terralite. Most of the men are long term patients and isolatel so they all enjoy their violets.

The second club to be organized is St. Paul is the Fringette African Violet Club whose officers are as follows:

President,	Mrs. Frank Rand
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. J. V. Price
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. P. W. Baldwin

Meeting date for the eleven members of this group is the first Monday of the month at 1:15. They have taken the senile women's ward of the Rochester State Hospital as their project. They held an African violet show at the Hamline Branch Library on May 11, which included a demonstration on pollinating, seed sowing, growing mediums and potting.

Mr. Bob Anderson of the Tonkadale Nursery spoke on "How to Grow Violets" and conducted a question and answer period.

The third group to be organized in St. Paul is the Fantasy African Violet Club, whose officers are as follows:

President,	Mrs. Clayton Witte
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. John D. Carley
Tel.-Chairman,	Mrs. T. W. Wing

The meeting date for the nine members of this group is the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 o'clock for a desert luncheon. This is a very new club and has no project as yet.

The fourth and newest club to be organized in St. Paul is the Gypsies African Violet Club. Officers for this group are:

President,	Mrs. Joseph Patton
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Willard Meyer

Meeting date is the third Thursday of the month at 1:15 o'clock.

THE GREATER AKRON AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW

More than twenty three hundred visitors attended the Greater Akron, Ohio, African Violet show at the M. O'Neil Company's second floor auditorium on April 16 and 17, 1951.

Blue red and white ribbons were awarded in the seventeen competitive classes for members and in the eight competitive classes for non-members, with a gold ribbon "Queen of the Show" going to Mrs. Frank Oros for her white seedling. A table featuring propagation, showing various rooting mediums with demonstrations of pollination was the subject of much attention. A plant sale which was a club project could hardly be kept stocked with enough plants, so great was the demand.

There were beautiful displays by commercial growers, and two neighboring clubs the African Violet Society of Akron and the Medina County African Viollet Society were invited to exhibit their prize plants. The Medina club had an outstanding arrangement which featured a huge artists palette and brushes. Instead of splotches of paint along the edges of the palette, pots of violets ranging from white to deep purple were hung. The area surrounding the easel was flanked with plants.

Judges were Mrs. Arthur Radtke and Mrs. John Landaker, both of Cincinnati and Mrs. Frank Pochurek of Cleveland.

Show committee consisted of Mrs. Harold Dannemiller, chairman; Mrs. T. A. O'Neil, co-chairman; Mrs. Harry Baughman and Mrs. W. G. White.

NEW CHICAGO VIOLET CLUB

The Rosaonna African Violet club was organized on March 7, 1951 at the home of Mrs. W. C. Bornemeir, 7850 Caldwell Road, Chicago, Illinois. The following officers were elected for a term of one year:

President,	Mrs. W. C. Bornemeir
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. E. Wechselberger
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. J. M. Hock
Corres.,	Mrs. A. C. Kettel
Treasurer,	Mrs. Frank Petrick

The club membership is limited to thirty and meets the second Monday of the month. The name "Rosaonna" was chosen in honor of Mrs. Rosa Peters of Grand Rapids, Michigan, the originator of the Rosaonna series.

WEBSTER GROVES MISSOURI

A private showing of African violets by the Viking African Violet Club of Webster Groves, Missouri, took place on Wednesday June 13, at the home of Mrs. J. L. Cook of Webster Groves for the club members and their friends.

One hundred and twenty nine plants were on display, made up of eighty varieties and two seedlings. Also on display were nineteen specimen plants.

Mrs. E. B. McClure, lecturer and writer of the garden column of the St. Louis Post Dispatch, was the speaker. She centered her attention on the specimen display and chose three specimen plants as outstanding; a Viking grown by Mrs. William Anderson, Red King grown by Mrs. J. E. Stotzel, and Sunrise grown by Mrs. J. B. Counts.

Mrs. McClure gave the club many valuable hints on the growing and showing of African violets.

DAYTON OHIO

The Kewensis African Violet Society of Dayton, Ohio was organized in the autumn of 1949 with seven charter members and at the closing of its second year boasts of a total of nineteen members, all, with one exception, being members of the National Society.

Meetings are held every two months on the third Thursday, the July meeting being a picnic.

Programs are planned on the growth and culture of the African violet with time being given for problems, hints, and cultural discussions.

Present officers are:

President,	Mrs. Pauline Gross
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Dorothea Gross
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Marie McNulty
Secretary,	Mrs. Helen Slade
Treasurer,	Mrs. Marie Leleman

ROYAL OAK MICHIGAN

Oaklandites African Violet Club of Royal Oak Michigan was organized on January 9, 1951 at the home of Mrs. Cecil Clinard. At that time officers were elected for six months. New officers are:

President,	Mrs. Cecil Clinard
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Leo Ozarzak
Secretary,	Mrs. John Stocker
Treasurer,	Mrs. Homer Hane

KANSAS CITY MISSOURI

The African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City, Missouri held their second election of officers in September. The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. W. P. Dahnke
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. J. G. Herman
Secretary,	Mrs. R. M. Cochran
Treasurer,	Mr. R. H. Seever
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. E. E. Davis
Historian,	Mrs. C. H. Randall
Show Chairman,	Mrs. J. G. Herman

Plans are being made for a show to be held in February next year.

GREENVILLE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

The annual picnic in June for club members and their husbands closed one of the most out-standing years since the organization of the Greenville Violet Club in November 1947.

The programs of the year were filled with practical suggestions and variety contributed by the talent among club members. Highlights of visits to national African violet growers and advantages of membership in the National Society were given on two programs.

The third show for the club was staged on April 9, 1951, which was one of the most unusual and out-standing flower shows ever held in Greenville. From this show the club has started a collection of Kodachrome slides.

Before this year the projects of the club have been to furnish African violets for the Woman's Club, hospitals and shut-ins, and to contribute arrangements in co-operation with the Garden clubs. Mrs. E. B. Copeland, the retiring president, recommended that the club contribute toward the furnishing of the living room at the new County home. The club contributed fifty dollars on this project.

The following officers were installed in May to serve from June 1951 through June 1952:

President,	Mrs. J. W. Brabham
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ed Copeland
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. S. M. Cassels
Asst. Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. D. P. DeVoursey
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. F. E. Anderson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Leon Kimmel
Reporter,	Mrs. W. B. Mulligan

SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

The Saintpaulia Society of Sacramento, California now has fifty one National members and twelve local members, making sixty three members in all. The following are officers:

President,	Mrs. Hugo Hall
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. G. R. McClahanan
Secretary,	Mrs. L. C. Jopson
Treasurer,	Mrs. B. M. Scribner
Program Chm.,	Mrs. Lucas Hauptman, Jr.

The summer meetings have been held in the Garden Center at 10:00 a. m. followed by a picnic in the beautiful park which surrounds the Center.

ST. LOUIS MISSOURI

The first meeting of the Normandy African Violet Club of St. Louis, Missouri was held at the home of Mrs. Albert Poos on May 1, 1951. As vacation time was near the members decided to elect officers in December and to draw up the by laws at that time. To date there are twelve members with a limit of eighteen. This is the third club to be organized in St. Louis and St. Louis County.

INGLEWOOD CALIFORNIA

A new chapter was formed on June 4, 1951 to be known as the Inglewood Branch of the African Violet Society of America. Eight were present at the first meeting. The group will meet the first Monday of each month. The following temporary officers were appointed:

President,	Mrs. D. R. Jones
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. F. K. Ehrhardt
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. M. Grouell

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The First African Violet Society of Chicago, elected and installed the following officers to take office on September 1, 1951:

President,	Mrs. W. H. Fowkes
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. E. Greely
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. L. J. Grant
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. P. L. Yates
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. H. H. Carlson
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. Robbins
Historian,	Mrs. M. E. Hansen

The club meetings will be held at the Mayfair Park Fieldhouse on the first Thursday of each month.

SAN GABRIEL CALIFORNIA

The San Gabriel Valley Society closed it's two and one-half years on June 13, 1951 with Mrs. J. Ernest Mackey turning over her gavel to Mrs. Allen A. Adams, the newly elected president. A pot luck luncheon was enjoyed by eighty-seven members and guests. The five other southland clubs, Los Angeles, Santa Monica Bay, San Pedro, South Bay, and Long Beach were represented.

After a short program, installation of officers was held. Mrs. Mackey, as Regional Councilor, installed the new officers, her theme being "Our Watch."

Newly elected officers for the ensuing year are:

President,	Mrs. Allen A. Adams
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ted Banks
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Wm. Stone
Treasurer,	Mrs. H. G. Skinner
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Roscoe Kindrick
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Chas. Langdale
Publicity,	Mrs. H. A. Peterson

The club voted to close its meetings to visitors, and new members are to be sponsored before being admitted to membership. The club boasts of a membership of over one hundred-twenty.

WEBSTER GROVES MISSOURI

The members of the Webster Groves African Violet Society, Chapter 1, entertained their husbands at a barbecue on Saturday July 21, 1951 in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Paulus.

The first fall meeting was held Thursday September 20. 1951 at 1 p. m. The hostess was Mrs. J. H. Sivells, 618 Oakwood Ave., Webster Groves. The program. "History of the African violet," by Mrs. W. C. Berkemeyer.

The November 15th meeting was a pilgrimage to the H. C. Renner greenhouse.

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The Elite Chapter of the First African Violet Society of Chicago, Illinois entered a "Special Exhibit" in the Beverly Hills Womans Club Garden show held on September 7, 1951. The fifty plants shown were awarded a purple and a blue ribbon.

Two blue ribbons were awarded Mrs. Frank Anderson for plants in unusual containers. Three red ribbons went to Mrs. R. J. Maier for outstanding plants and Mrs. R. Trendler, president of the Elite club won two red and one yellow ribbons for her entries.

SAGINAW MICHIGAN

The African Violet Society of Saginaw, Michigan consists of the Amethyst and Rose Marie chapters and have elected the following officers for the year 1951:

President,	Mrs. Wm. Gelow
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Harvey List
Secretary,	Mrs. M. A. Bray
Treasurer,	Mrs. John Phillips

The two chapters meet separately once a month and are studying the history, soil, propagation and identification of the African violet. The two chapters met recently for a pot luck picnic and are now planning an exhibit for the county fair.

LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Society closed its third year with Carolyn Rector, it's noted president succeeded by Mrs. Holmes Harris. The program for the day was "Carolyn Rector Day," and a very lovely ovation was given her by Mrs. Harris. The club presented Mrs. Rector with a beautifully wrapped gift package, containing wik-pots, as their appreciation for her two years service. Installation of officers was conducted by Mrs. Ernest Mackey, Regional Councilor for this district. Her theme was "Our Ship." She was accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Wm. Stone, who furnished background music.

The officers for the ensuing year are:

President,	Mrs. Holmes Harris
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. John Gallagher
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. G. Watters
Treasurer,	Miss M. Garbutt
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. G. A. Gauger
Membership,	Mrs. N. Cobb
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. F. D. Price
Director at Large,	Mrs. Carolyn Rector

As a part of the program Mrs. Rector displayed her new registered violets.

MARSHALL MISSOURI

The Marshall, Missouri African Violet Club was organized September 12, 1951 at the home of Mrs. W. H. Odom with fourteen charter members. Officers elected for the coming year were:

President,	Mrs. W. H. Odom
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. W. I. Ferguson
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. B. C. Stolberg
Corres. Secy.,	Miss Ada Naegllin
Treasurer,	Mrs. Guy McAmis

Meetings will be held the first Saturday of the month at 2 o'clock in the members homes.

ROTENONE

U. S. Department of Agriculture
(Permission to reprint granted.)

The colorless, crystalline chemical compound known as rotenone is found in the roots of several so-called "fish-poison" plants, the most important of which are the genera Derris and Lonchocarpus. Derris is native to the Far Eastern Tropics. Lonchocarpus is native to the Amazon Basin and the rain forests of northern South America.

Although practically unknown in the United States as recently as 20 years ago, rotenone is now among the most widely used insecticides of plant origin. It is ideal for use on crop plants because it leaves no harmful residue. It will control many of the leaf-chewing beetles and caterpillars, the Mexican bean beetle, leaf beetles, flea beetles on tomatoes, radishes, carrots, beets, and plants grown for greens, and will help check the Japanese beetle. It will also control caterpillars on cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, and lettuce; aphids on turnips; striped and spotted cucumber beetles on melon and squash; European corn borer on sweetcorn; Melonworms and pickleworms on squash, cantaloupes, and cucumbers.

What kind of insecticide is this, so deadly to destructive insects, yet safe to use on the most tender fruits and vegetables? Since early times, people in many tropical countries, especially in the East Indies, Africa, India, and South America, have used rotenone-bearing plants to catch fish. Natives of the Amazon Valley crushed the roots in water and poured the mixture into a stream. The fish, stunned temporarily, rose to the surface where they were easy to catch. To this day, certain riverbank dwellers of the Amazon plant small plots of "fish poison" along with their food crops whenever they move to a new home.

The sudden rise of rotenone in United States commerce is one of the most astonishing developments of agricultural history. By 1937, total imports of crude and ground root were a little over 2,000,000 pounds. In 1946, imports reached nearly 11½ million pounds. Over 99 per cent of this amount consisted of Lonchocarpus from South America. Peruvian plantations alone accounted for nearly 11 million pounds.

Before the war (1938-40), the world commercial production of rotenone-bearing roots averaged 9,750,000 pounds a year, 4,000,000 pounds coming from Brazil and Peru. Important producers in the East were British Malaya and the Netherlands Indies, which together supplied another 4,000,000 pounds.

During the war, when imports of derris root from the Far East were cut off, production of Lonchocarpus in the Western Hemisphere was greatly increased. At the present time, Lonchocarpus plantations in Eastern Peru, in the Amazon headwater region, furnish most of the world supply of rotenone. From 12,000 to 18,000 acres of this area are devoted to Lonchocarpus culture.

When the plants are about two and a half years old, the roots are ready to be dug. Harvesting requires a strong back and strong arms. Most of the roots spread out laterally, but a few grow almost directly downward. The gatherer's job is to salvage as much of the entire root system as possible, working with a machete and a long stout sharp-pointed pole.

Freshly dug roots contain about 60 per cent moisture. In preparation for export they are stored for several months, until their moisture content has been reduced to about 20 per cent of their weight, then baled and wrapped in burlap or unbleached muslin. On the ocean voyage from the Amazon the roots usually lose considerable moisture, and arrive in fairly dry condition.

In the United States, the crude roots are ground in special mills and mixed with clay or talc. Most of the commercial insecticides contain less than 1 per cent rotenone. If thoroughly applied, a dust containing as little as one-fourth of 1 per cent is effective against many common insects.

Just a friendly wish for a Happy Christmas and a Glad New Year.

Alma Wright Mary Parker

1952

INTRODUCING

GRAND AWARD The GIANT OF DOUBLES. This variety received first prize as an unnamed seedling double at the 1951 N. A. V. C. at Dayton, Ohio. It produces larger blooms than any other double variety we have grown. The flowers are medium blue, on strong erect stems, standing well above foliage, unlike most other doubles. Foliage is rather large, of medium green color. Its growth habit gives this plant a stately character. It is truly the monarch of double violets. $2.50

BRUSSELS SPROUTS - Every collector will want this plant, regarded as the most unusual of African Violets by visitors at the N.A.V.C. in Dayton. The double flowers are leafy in texture, deeply serrated and varying from greenish-white to medium blue in color. This is the "Parrot Tulip" of the Saintpaulia family. Limited supply on first introduction. $2.50

APOLLO - Handsome light blue flowers are borne on sturdy stems. The semi-double blooms resemble singles but have a small rosette of petals surrounding the yellow eye. Most important, the flowers do not drop. $2.50

PETITE - Outstanding light blue double with clusters of small perfectly formed blooms. Red coloration on underside of leaves adds particular distinction. $2.00

TEAR DROP - A dainty variety with small semi-double baby blue blooms. Flowering is profuse and well grown plants are a mass of bloom. $2.50

We will be offering several exciting new varieties next year -- including improved Fringettes. These will be in new shades -- with improved characteristics -- the best selections from hundreds of Fringette seedlings. For complete descriptions of our entire stock get our new 1952 catalogue. Available spring 1952.

ALMA WRIGHT - Our new White Double, will be ready for release fall 1952.

WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our New Year's resolution will be to produce ever better new varieties of African violets for you.

SEE OUR NEW VARIETIES AT THE 1952 N. A. V. C. AT CHICAGO.

All plants sent parcel post. Add 10c per plant for orders under $5.00. For special delivery add 25c. Shipments resumed April 1952. Please send money order or check with all orders.

75TH ANNIVERSARY

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"A miracle lies in the ripening pod,
With hope and patience unfolding from God"

IT IS OUR HUMBLE PRIVILEGE TO EXPRESS OUR GREAT APPRECIATION AND THANKS FOR YOUR PATRONAGE AND CONFIDENCE IN THE PAST YEARS.

Wishing you and yours:

THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS
THE PRIVILEGE OF FRIENDSHIP
AND THE BLESSINGS OF PEACE

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TINARI Floral Gardens

BETHAYRES, PA.

African Violet Magazine

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MARCH 1952 VOLUME 5 NUMBER 3

JUL 18 1966
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Unusual AFRICAN VIOLETS Will Bring

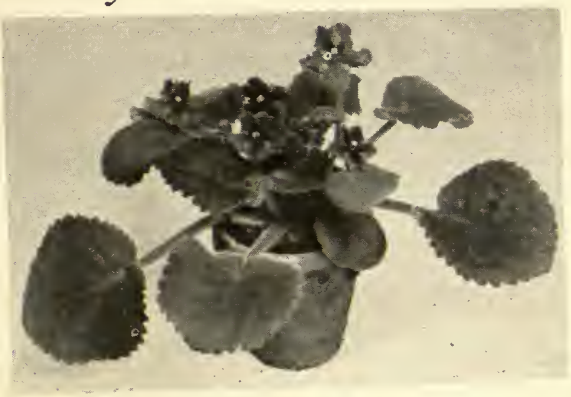
New Beauty to your indoor windowsill garden . . .

another sure prize-winner in your own collection!

RUFFLED QUEEN

$3.25 postpaid

- **Fringed Dark Burgundy**
- **Massive duPont foliage**
- **Always 5 or more buds**



HERE'S an African Violet that will catch the eye of every visitor!

Extra heavy flower stalks always carry more than 5 huge buds, and the edges of each petal are so heavily ruffled and frilled that they have an appearance of being edged with lace of a lighter shade than the rest of the wide-open flowers!

As each bud unfolds it is a joy to behold! The crinkled petals have such heavy substance that you can hardly wait until it attains full size and true color . . . a blue burgundy that is a bit darker than Purple Dawn. The reverse of each WIDELY OPENED flower is a real novelty also, reminding you of starched ruffles!

Massive DuPont foliage with stems of pencil thickness or even more, and each leaf will attain unusual size. This wonderful new variety might be our best seller this season! Order Now.

VELVET GIRL

$3.25 postpaid

- **Was "tops" last season**
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- **Rich orchid with dark tips**

LOOK at the photograph, for it tells you more than words can describe! Clean-cut and adorable.

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34368 MORAVIAN DRIVE

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FOR AFRICAN VIOLET LOVERS

LAZY SUSAN PLANT TREE

PRICE $45.00

- **EASILY HOLDS FIFTY PLANTS**
- **HAS FOUR SHELVES 10", 16", 22" AND 28" IN DIAMETER**
- **HEIGHT 55" — WEIGHT 23 LBS.**

These attractive and sturdy Lazy Susans display your beautiful plants and make it easy to water and change position which is so necessary to proper plant culture.

The shelves rotate easily.

These stands are highly decorative as well as useful for any room in your home.

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African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

Vol. 5 March 1952 No.3

Front Cover: Pink Luster — Tinari Floral Gardens. Ektachrome by Noel Boghetti, Hatboro, Penn.

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Alma Wright, Editor
Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn.

Mary Parker, Assistant Editor
Harrill Hills, Knoxville 18, Tenn.

Evan Roberts, Research Editor
355 N. Harrison St., E. Lansing, Mich.

Floyd L. Johnson, Advertising Mgr.
79 West Gibson St., Canandaigua, N. Y.

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 West 3rd, Perry, Iowa.

Neil C. Miller, Mgr. Veterans Affairs
Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J.

Contributing Editors - Boyce Edens, Regina Gottshall, H. G. Harvey, Naomi Cotton

News Reporters - Harriet F. Lawton, Emily Hodan, Daisy Jones, Warren Gottshall, Phyllis Ferrall, Martha Mears, Ruth Dahnke, Florence Foltz, Lauretta L. Littig

Homing Pigeon Dept.:
Helen Pochurek, News Editor
14425 McCracken Rd., Cleveland, Ohio

Gladys Canner, Membership Mgr.
Route 1, Creek Rd., Herkimer, N. Y.

OFFICERS

Floyd Johnson, President
79 W. Gibson St.
Canandaigua, N. Y.

Mrs. W. P. Dahnke, 1st Vice-Pres.
5611 Newton Rd., R. 1
Merriam, Kansas

Mrs. E. G. Magill, 2nd Vice-Pres.
707 S. Fourth St.
Aurora, Ill.

Neil C. Miller, Rec. Sec'y.
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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

Your PARTICULAR ATTENTION is called to "Nutrition of the African Violet, by Jesse M. Rawson on page 52. This splendid article is good club program material and is recommended to you --

Henry Ten Hagen would like to hear at once from members who have questions on commercial growing problems . . such as shipping, new varieties etc. See "What is Going on Under Glass?" On the Friday afternoon Convention Program. Henry is the leader.

Thru some error I can't explain the author of the poem "My Favorite Picture" has been lost. Will she let me hear from her? Please?

Sincerely,

Alma Wright

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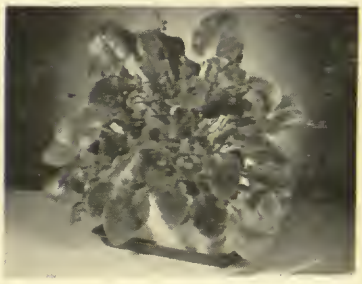

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OUR SECOND VIOLET

Mabel B. Raines, Tenn.

We often hear "third time is the charm." But with us it was the second time.

About four years ago my husband and I had called on a dear friend, with whom we exchange plants freely. As we were about to drive away she called, "Wait!" and disappeared. When she returned she was carrying a small cardboard cup. It was filled with soil and a small plant.

She gave it to me with these instructions. "This is a very lovely Blue Leatherneck, African violet, put it in a pot that has a hole in the bottom and keep it damp. -- Now don't let it dry out like your ole Cacti -- I don't have a suitable container and it will die in this cup."

(At that time I was interested in cacti and had one of, if not, the largest collections in our town.)

A short time before, I had been given a nice violet plant, with instructions for its care. It promptly died and I was so sure this one would do the same that when we reached home I took a 4 inch clay pot into the vegetable garden (it had been fertilized generously with phosphate) filled it with soil and planted the violet.

We could almost see it growing. Soon it had huge leaves and was full of blossoms.

It has never been repotted, but has been fed a weak solution of Hyponex as often as once a week.

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See You in Chicago

It is with a great deal of humbleness that I start this present year. Your many kind wishes are most appreciated. One early wish in particular was quite expressive: "You are stepping into some pretty big shoes (somehow that does not sound very complimentary to Mrs. Radtke) -- but I mean it as a compliment anyway." The success of our African Violet Society can only be achieved by the utmost cooperation from each and every member.

Again -- we are favored with a colored front cover. There will be more through the cooperation of some of our commercial growers. There is a possibility that if you have a 4 x 5 Ektachrome transparency which is **"GOOD"** as far as subject, color, etc., are concerned, we may be able to use it. These can be submitted to our Editor for her consideration.

I wish to call special attention to two African violet groups who have donated generously to our Research Program. The African Violet Club of Salem County, N. J. and the Cleveland Metropolitan African Violet Society . . . . . Congratulations to Mrs. Carrie Reeves of Woodston, N. J., Secretary of the Salem group; and to Mrs. John W. Held of Fairview Park, Ohio, Treasurer of the Cleveland Society.

Plans for our Sixth Annual Convention to be held at Hotel Sherman, Chicago, on April 24th, 25th and 26th are now complete with a few "polishes" here and there. Mrs. William H. Fowkes, General Chairman, and Mrs. Elmer Szontagh, Co-chairman, with their committees have a truly outstanding convention planned. There will be many new features. You are invited to bring plants to compete in the show which promises to be a very interesting feature. Special emphasis is being given to our commercial growers. There will be a separate room for display and sale of plants, accessories, etc. This will not be in conflict with the regular display of the latest and newest varieties shown by our growers and dealers. Society and club year books will again compete. We are promised meals which will satisfy everyone. (Remember Dayton?)

Our Program Chairman for our convention, Mrs. E. G. Magill, and her committee have a splendid program planned. It is one that will be of special interest and benefit to the amateur grower as well as the advanced collector.

I would like to call your particular attention to Mr. Stinson's report of "Results of the Research Work With Saintpaulias at the Ohio State University." This is valued information!!! To some of you it won't mean too much now -- but just be sure and keep the December issue and I know that you will refer to it many times. Experimental information of this kind grows in value as this Saintpaulia hobby grows with you!

Will the Presidents, Treasurers or Secretarys of the local groups **PLEASE** send in applications and remittances as soon as received? Some of these are being held (even for a short time) and this sometimes means that some do not get the issue to which they are entitled. It will save much worry and grief if this is taken care of promptly.

I am most grateful for your many Christmas cards. They are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Floyd L. Stinson

Step 1—

Measuring the Parathion

A PARATHION DIP FOR MITE

H. G. Harvey, Ga.

Parathion is nearly the ideal insecticide for African violets. It absolutely conquers Cyclamen Mite and Mealy Bug, two of the most serious pests with which the African violet grower has to contend. It is probable that the majority of the commercial growers of African violets are today using Parathion in one form or another. Unfortunately, it is dangerous and in the form used by the commercial growers (generally spray from an aerosol bomb) it is not applicable to amateur conditions. However, used as a dip, with adequate safety precautions, it can be used by the serious amateur with near miraculous results. The writer has been using a Parathion dip for the past two years. He has ridden through two serious infestations of Mite and has never lost a plant dipped in Parathion either from Mite or from the effects of the dip -- and some of the plants were pretty far gone from Mite infestation before they were dipped.

The safety precautions are as follows:

1. Always work with Parathion outdoors with plenty of ventilation, never in a closed room. (This precludes its use in winter).

2. Change all clothing and take a complete bath after working with Parathion.

3. Use rubber gloves that do not leak when dipping the plants.

4. If any Parathion gets on the skin, stop every thing and flush it off immediately with copious applications of running water from a faucet or something of the kind.

5. Avoid smelling the Parathion as much as possible. Keep the mouth closed, breathe through the nose, and pretend that the smell is about ten times as bad as it really is. (It is fairly bad smelling stuff anyway).

Step 2—

Folding the Packet.

6. Clean up everything scrupulously after you are through. Copious flushing with plain water is better than washing with a limited amount of water; pour the expended dip down the drain, followed with plenty of clear water; gather up contaminated papers and burn them; flush off tops of tables with plenty of clear water and the like.

Paradoxically, if you consider Parathion as extremely dangerous, it will be perfectly safe; if you consider it perfectly safe, it will be extremely dangerous: The first symptoms of Parathion poisoning are headache, nasal inflamation and a slight feeling of nausea, and if these preliminary warnings are heeded, serious trouble can very easily be avoided. Also, the trouble is not cumulative, when an attack is over, it is entirely thrown off and will have no further effect on the system. The writer had one slight case, caused by smoking a pipe while dipping the plants. That pipe got to be the worst tasting thing that any one ever put in his mouth -- it still tastes that way -- and a slight headache resulted which entirely disappeared in three or four hours.

The usual commercial form of Parathion is a 15% wettable powder, and about three pounds, costing around three dollars and a half is the smallest amount that can be purchased. Mine came in a gallon tin can, with a pressed on lid, like a syrup can. I use it in the proportion of ½ oz. to three gallons of water, which means, practically, two heaping teaspoonsful to a bucket (12 quarts) of water. The dosage is not at all critical, half as much or twice as much could probably be used with just as good results.

The first problem is to get the powder measured out in half-ounce doses. Take the can outdoors, pry the lid off, measure out two heaping teaspoonsful and put them in the center of a piece of waxed paper perhaps twelve inches long by nine inches wide. Fold this paper up like a druggist folds up a powder, first putting the long edges together and folding them over on themselves two or three times and then folding over the two ends, making a packet perhaps an inch wide and three inches long. Slip a rubber band over this packet to hold it and then drop it into a quart Mason jar. Make up six or more of these packets, screw the lid on the jar, and that part of the job is done. The packets can stay in the jar for months. I wish I could tell you to use rubber gloves while doing this, but I can't: I tried it, and it does not work.

Next comes the actual dipping. I use an "A" sized tub, which is an overgrown galvanized pail with a handle, holding about five gallons. Then I get a regular 12 quart pail and run it about a third full of water. With rubber gloves on, I then take a packet of the Mason jar and open it into the pail, just as close to the water as possible so that the powder will not float out into the air. The pail is then filled with water

Step 3—

Dipping the plants.

Note the very long, heavy gloves.

and poured into the "A" tub, and another pailful mixed up to complete the filling of the tub. The plants are then dunked into the tub. All of the foliage should be completely and enthusiastically immersed, particularly the flowers and buds. Put the whole pot under water if you want to.

Next comes the drying off of the plants. They should dry off in the open air or at least in a place where people will not be breathing a concentration of the contaminated air. A porch, a garage, under some trees or even a well ventilated room closed off from the rest of the house by a closed door will be satisfactory. If, like me, you dip in the afternoon, you certainly must not put the wet plants in a bedroom where people sleep that night. By next morning, everything is over and no further precautions need be taken.

The dip will get dirty pretty promptly, and then there is the question of cleaning it. If you want to, you can dump the dirty dip out and start over. You never are going to use up the three pounds of Parathion you had to buy, so there is no object of being saving of it. However, I pour it through a strainer from the tub to a pail, straining out the floating debris through cheese cloth inside the strainer. Most of the heavy sediment stays in the bottom of the tub, and I throw that out. New dip is added from time to time to make up for that taken up by the plants or wasted. Every plant in the menage is dipped at one time, whether it shows any Mite infection or not. Mites are pesky creatures, and you want to get every one of them at one time.

One dip will stop all Mite activity. One good thorough dipping and they are done. Recuperation of the plants will start at once. However, I follow up with a second dip a week later and a third two weeks after the second as insurance and I think it is well worth while. After the third dip comes the job of cleaning off the dirty leaves and generally making the plants look neat. Those plants seriously damaged by the Mite will require considerable time to get back to normal. New leaves will start in the center of the crown

WARNING

PARATHION IS A DANGEROUS POISON AND MUST BE USED WITH EXTREME CARE—

Step 4—

Straining the dirty dip.

to take the place of those ruined by Mites, but this is quite a long drawn out process. The leaves will start all around the crown and would produce three or four new crowns if left to themselves, so it is necessary to carefully select the best new crown and pinch off the others. But in four or five months, the plants will be back again, blooming just as vigorously as ever, and not letting on that there ever was a Mite near them. The plants that had no apparent infestation suffer no damage what ever from the Parathion dip. The flowers are not even discolored, nor do they show any tendency to drop off as a result of the dip. It is only a very slight exaggeration to say that the dip acts as a fertilizer on them.

The point is that with Parathion, the margin between strengths that will kill the insects and those which will damage the plants is so wide that there is plenty of room to play in. In this respect, it differs from most other insecticides and it is from this characteristic that Parathion gains its advantage. Altogether, Parathion has opened up new prospects in the African violet field and has reduced Mite and Mealy Bug infestations from major catastrophes to petty work producing nuisances.

SULPHUR AND PARATHION

Reprinted with permission of Florist Review

Although Parathion has given excellent results with injury only to a limited number of plants (crassulas. Boston ferns. kalanchoes and a few varieties of chrysanthemums), you will run into serious trouble if you use it when the plants have sulphur in any form on them or if you use sulphur while the Parathion is present on the plants.

The length of time necessary to allow between applications of either of these two materials would vary, depending upon the method of application. Observations indicate that it is safe to use sulphur about ten days after Parathion has been applied in aerosol form. If it has been applied as a spray, it seems better to wait a little longer before dusting, spraying or fumigating with sulphur.

To avoid injury and to get the maximum kill, be sure that the temperature is 75 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. When using aerosols, keep the house closed for at least two hours following fumigation; then for additional results close the house down for about two hours each day for the next three or four days to get the full residual effect on the plants. Avoid high humidity, and be sure that the plants are dry when the application is made.

Parathion still looks like the best all-around insecticide for aphis, cabbage loopers, centipedes, crickets, cutworms, rose beetles, white flies, leaf miners, leaf rollers, mealy bugs, thrips and tarnished plant bugs.

Two to four applications may be necessary to win complete control of aphis, greenhouse leaf tiers, leaf miners, leaf rollers, mealy bugs and thrips. Three applications may be necessary on mites, and four or five applications may be necessary on midge.

Left, photo

Number 1 Shows the vat and placement of the grill.

Below, photo

Number 2 shows the grill in place.

AUTOMATIC-IRRIGATION of POT PLANTS

John P. Toberman, Texas

The Automatic-Irrigation of plants is fast becoming widely used by the commercial grower and is the ideal method for the home gardener whether in the window garden or the home greenhouse.

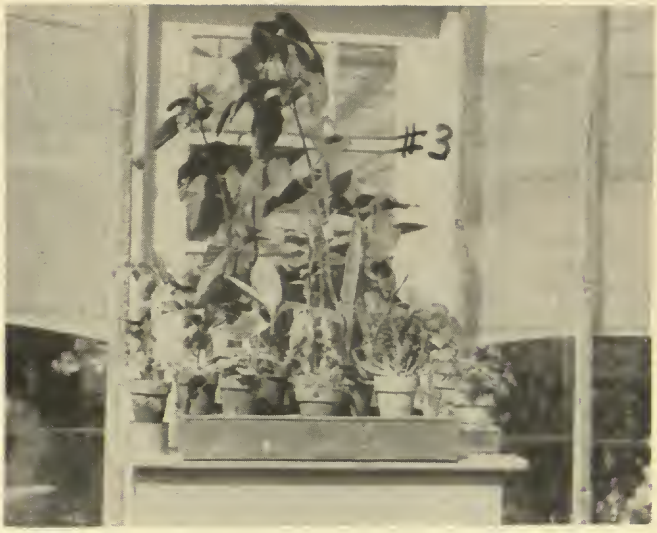
This method takes most of the worry and disappointment out of the production of plants for it eliminates over-and under-watering with the hose or watering can, the spreading of disease by splashing water, and it gives the grower complete control of feeding by the use of liquid nutrients.

The mainstay of this system of Automatic-Irrigation is the Plant Glaswick made of spun glass fiber which does not decay or corrode and is chemically neutral, thus eliminating any detrimental reactions. This system was first evolved by Dr. Kenneth Post of the Cornell University School of Floriculture and is endorsed by the Geo. Ball Co., and other large commercial growers.

In my first experiments I tried the system recommended by Dr. Post of using a series of eaves-troughs as reservoirs for the water or the liquid nutrients. I soon found this system too cumbersome, lacking flexibility, and of having too small water capacity.

I evolved a system of my own whereby I used grilled-vats that would fit inside of my greenhouse benches. I found that this system gave the maximum of flexibility for your seed and cutting flats or pans and all types of pot plants.

I had my metalsmith make the vats of a good grade of "COPPER-LOY" sheet galvanized metal 40" x 42" x 4", 3½' being the width of my benches, which could be easily handled by one man. I made the grills of 1 x 4"s for the sides, 1 x 3"s for the ends, 1 x 1"s for the slats spaced 1" apart for the wicks. See photo No. 1. Also put in cross brace of a 1 x 1" so the grill slats will not sag in the middle under the weight of the pots.



A grilled vat loaded with a variety of house plants growing successfully with wick watering.

The size of the grills depends on the size of your vats for the grills MUST be made just the right size so they can be lifted out of the vats easily for periodic cleaning. C-A-U-T-I-O-N: BE SURE that your metalsmith makes all of your vats true to the measurements you give him or you will have TROUBLE. I K-N-O-W, one vat was not exactly true and the grill stuck fast, "nuf-said." The grilled vat in the photos has been used continuously for over 5 years and does not show any rust as yet.

You ladies may say, "Mercy Me-No, those old vats would simply look awful in any ones home." Please do not jump at conclusions, first look at the following pictures in these 1950 and 1951 issues of the African Violet Magazine; page 27 Dec. issue, pages 14 and 15 March issue and pages 22, 24, 25, 29 and 31 of the June issue. Now just use a little ingenuity like Mrs. Ryder did, as shown on page 22 of the June issue, and similar or any decorative fronts, to suit the individual fancy, can be used by all of you on your tables and shelves. All Mrs. Ryder will have to do will be to make grills for her vats and equip her pots with wicks and she will be through watering her plants individually.

Plant Glaswick comes in three sizes; 7/32", 1/4" and 3/8" diameter and 4"s long and cost only 15c each OR for those with a lot of plants there is a big saving by buying the 190' rolls which will make 300 of the 4" wicks per roll.

First I will give you the applications for the use of the different sizes of wicking as suggested by the manufacturer of the wicking. I followed these suggestions in my first experiments but was not satisfied with the results obtained. They suggested 7/32" wicks for 2" to 3½" pots, 1/4" wicks for 7" to 12" pots, flats, porch boxes, hanging baskets, etc. I found this classification very unsatisfactory.

I have demonstrated that besides the size of the pots you must take into consideration the type of plant and its affinity for water, the size of its root system and the amount of vegetative growth, the amount and type of heat and

Illustrated below is a 12 inch hanging wire basket that has been equipped with automatic irrigation.

humidity the plant will have to live in before you can actually determine the size of wicking to use in each pot. Your soil type will have a lot to do in making your decision. While you have the plant out of the pot be sure to note the moisture content of the root-ball as this will help you to decide on the proper size of wick to use. This may all sound very complicated but it will quickly become second nature with you and be taken in at a glance.

To properly handle this system you should have a cigar box or some similar receptacle, in which you place two divisions, thus giving you three compartments and lable the inside of the lid 7/32", 1/4" and ⅜". This way your different size wicks will be separate and you will not be making mistakes in your potting. Because your wicking is made of spun glass fiber it will not rot or corrode and can be used indefinitely, so as you repot from, say a 4" to a 5" pot, you lay the 4" pot and its wick aside, place a clean wick of the size you have decided on, in the 5" pot and complete the potting.

When you are through repotting a batch of plants always clean all the old soil out of the pots you have just emptied and scrub them good, also wash and dry the wicks that were in the pots you have just cleaned. When they are dry place them in their proper compartment in the box you have for them and they are ready to use again. By doing this your Automatic-Irrigation system will not be as expensive as you thought it would be.

If you sell any of your potted plants equipped with wicks be sure to add 15c to the sales price for the wick, if they do not want to pay the extra 15c just "yank" the wick out of the bottom of the pot and keep it.

To use a new wick you first unravel 1" of the outside jacket thus exposing the core of two strands of twisted glass fiber. Look closely and you will see that each strand is composed of two strands of fiber. Now carefully separate these two strands so as not to "fuzz" out the fiber. Do the same with the other original strand thus giving you four strands on the frayed end. Place an 8" azalea or bulb pan bottom up on the potting bench and set your 4" "squatty" pot on the 8" pot so the holes coordinate. Drop the wick through the holes and "fan out" the frayed end of the wick on the inside of the bottom of the 4" pot and put a handfull of your potting soil and firm it down to hold the wick in place. The idea of the two pots is to let the wick swing free and give you both hands to use in your potting. Do not use any drainage material as that would break the capillary attraction. Complete your potting in the usual way and water the new soil down, from then on the wick will do the work; do not let the bottom of the pot touch the water in the vat.

My African violets took to wick culture like a duck to water. When my leaf cuttings are rooted, I pot them up in 2" pots and plunge them to the rim in moist sand until the new plants appear and are ready to pot, I then shift to a

Devils Ivy in a 3 pound Crisco can as an irrigator. The longest runner is 84 inches long -- and still running.

paraffin rimmed 4" "squatty" pot equipped with a 7/32" wick where I grow them until they are sold. The rims are insulated with hot paraffin to protect the petioles from "pot snow," the alkaline secretion from the water, which causes petiole rot. The paraffin also protects the petioles from being injured from rubbing against sharp projections.

I have all of my African violets on wick watering, including my S. grotei, the new trailer or climber. When I divide a multiple crown plant I put all divisions in wick-watered 4" "squatty" pots, including the divisions that do not have roots. These latter I place under fluorescent lights which I have 24" over the grilled vats where I keep my seed pans and cutting flats under the potting bench.

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African Violets In A Strawberry Jar

Lauretta L. Littig, Iowa

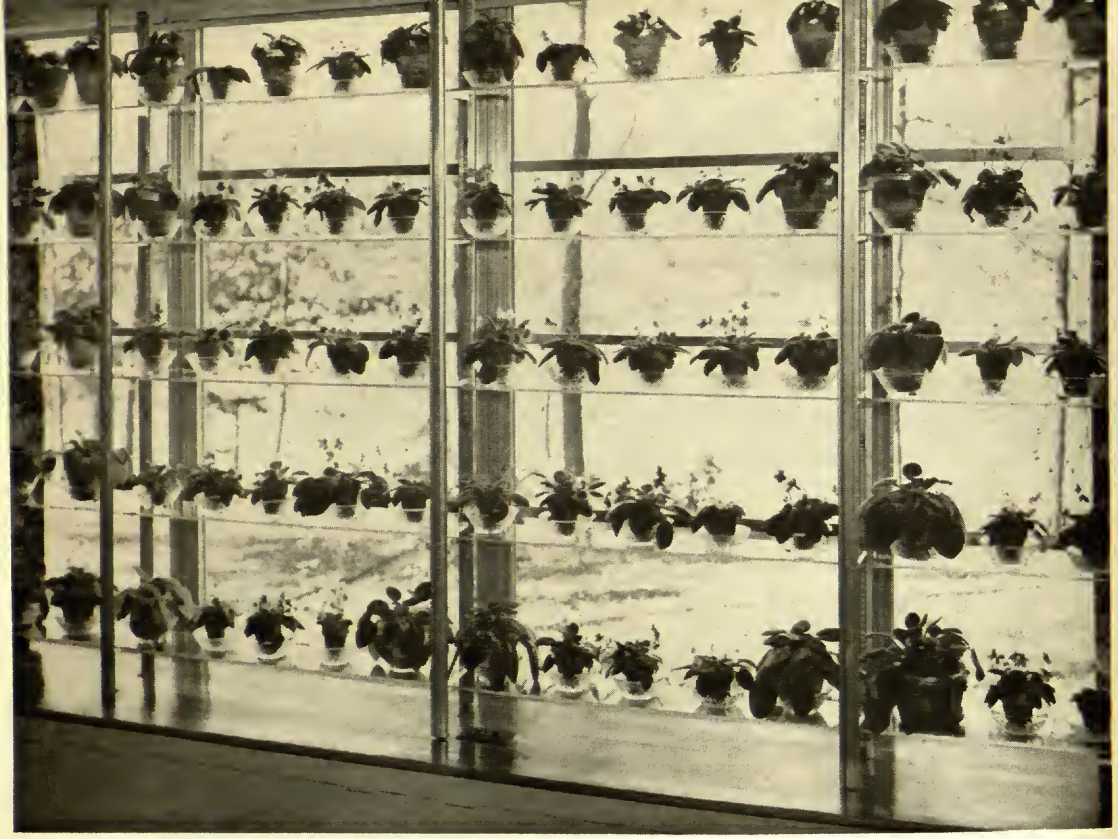
Some time ago, in going through a Pottery, I saw a Strawberry Jar. I thought it would be fun to use it for African violets, although some of my friends said it would not work.

The jar is glazed, about six inches high, and has five openings. In the top, I planted Blue Boy, and in the sides, Bi-Color, Pink Beauty, Red Head, and White Lady.

When I bought it, I had them make a hole in the bottom. I used broken clinkers (washed in boiling water) for drainage, a little spaghnum moss on top, then broken bits of charcoal and a little bone meal; I put in soil up to the two lower openings then inserted the little plants from the outside. More soil was added up to the next two openings, and two more little plants put in. Again soil was added, and the last plant was put in at the top. As I put in each side plant, I inserted a plastic straw from the top, cut off to reach the plant. I do not know whether this does any good or not, but thought the water would go down faster along the straw. In that way, the top plant would not get so much water. I water a little at the top, and a little at the bottom.

The plants grew unusually fast and sturdy, and it wasn't long before all five plants were in bloom, the different colored blossoms mingling at the top with Blue Boy. The side plants grow almost flat against the jar, as they have no other choice. I see now that I made a mistake in not using smaller varieties. The plants are so large, the jar is completely covered, and I have to remember when to water as I can't see or feel the soil.

It would be attractive to use a larger jar with seven or nine openings but have seen these in the clay pots only. They are not as pretty and probably would not be good for the leaves to rest against the sides in case the moisture came through.



"A Picture Window"

African violets provide freshness and color for the cloudy drab days of Winter. Shown above is an attractive arrangement in the windows of the dining room in the home of Mrs. T. A. Connery, Durham, North Carolina. The four windows cover the entire wall of the room. She has over 100 plants in her collection. Colors in this window are pink, white, purple, red-purple, and shades of blue.

Mrs. Connery waters her Saintpaulia collection in the following way: A cellophane cup, funnel shaped is placed inside the pot (not too near the center or the root of the plant) so that the roots will absorb the water from the improvised cups.

For rooting leaves Mrs. Connery has an attractive well lighted container arrangement above the door in another room.

Facing west -- the windows provide Mrs. Connery's plants with just the right amount of light in winter and with enough shade in the summer to insure a successful all year growing season. Shelves are adjustable and are wide enough to accommodate both large and small specimen plants.

MY FAVORITE PICTURE

Mrs. George A. Kent's beautiful window of African violets at her home in Lansing, Michigan inspired the author to write this poem -- Editor.

I don't mind the winter outside,
With the snow, the wind and the cold.
My violets are in the windows,
With their colors so bright and bold.

The white snow is in the background,
The windows are the frames
For the lovely colors of my violets,
With their many intriguing names.

If there be a heaven where angels tread,
I'm very sure you'll find,
Growing along the garden paths,
African violets of every kind.

Credit for writing the above poem cannot be given at this time because the author's name has been lost —

FOR THE FIRST TIME —

At a Convention Show The

NATIONAL AWARDS

The SILVER CUP to be awarded to the best registered name plant entered in the Convention Show in Chicago.

The AWARD OF MERIT RIBBONS and the HONORABLE MENTION RIBBONS will be awarded to the runner up plants.

Mrs. Parker

Sophia Bakers Questions Answered

Mrs. Baker

By Mary Parker

Q. In a case of crown rot, when leaves show signs of wilting, can roots be cut off and the plant re-rooted in water?

A. Yes, this is easy to do! You do not need to lose your plant if it has crown rot. Trim the old roots off and cut the stalk back to the firm, green portion. Place the stalk in water and when new roots begin to show, plant in peat and vermiculite and treat as you do young leaf cuttings.

Q. In pollinating, do the baby plants take from either parent, and if so which one?

A. I do not know the correct scientific answer to this and so must answer only from my own experience. In self-pollination a majority of the plants were similar to the parent. However anything can happen! My records show that from a cross of Pink Girl on Redhead, about 50% had girl type foliage, others a foliage all their own. Color range of flowers was from pale orchid and blue to deep red and purple. Most interesting!

Q. What is a good fertilizer, other than Hyponex?

A. I have used pulverized sheep or cattle manure, Vigoro, Spoonit, and many others. All are dependable if used carefully and according to directions.

Q. Why does a leaf potted in soil just fill the pot with roots but no new plantlets?

A. Sometimes old leaves are very slow in putting up little plants. It is advisable to use a young vigorous leaf for rooting.

Q. How often should African violets be fed while blooming?

A. About every two weeks a mild application of a good, well balanced fertilizer is beneficial.

Q. Will leaves which have been wiped with alcohol for mealy bugs root, or will that cause them to rot?

A. The alcohol should be applied only to the insect. Have you ever tried Endo-Pest for mealy bugs? I find it very effective.

Q. When leaves were planted in jars with covers they died. Did they steam to death?

A. Possibly they were too moist and the roots rotted. They should not be placed in the sun and should have a little ventilation, especially in hot weather.

Q. Is there a blue violet with a white eye?

A. Yes, I understand there are several -- I do not have any particular variety I can recommend, however.

Q. How many recognized standard varieties of Saintpaulias are there?

A. Oh dear! I would hesitate to say! The number changes rapidly.

Q. To date, which is the rarest and most expensive African violet and what is its name?

A. That depends on individual taste. I am still searching for that elusive, true yellow one, which must be very rare and quite expensive. Seriously there are many lovely new ones being introduced.

Q. Is soil the reason for mealy bugs?

A. No, mealy bugs are spread through contact with an infected plant. Spores may be spread through the air.

Q. Do Saintpaulias need lots of root room?

A. Not necessarily. There is more danger in over-potting than under-potting. I prefer small pots.

Q. In pollenization do they try for specific results, or it is happenstance as in Lady Geneva?

A. There should be some purpose and definite objective in all pollination.

Q. If Lady Geneva blooms the second time without edge, what can be done?

A. I have heard that all buds and blooms should be removed. This may bring back the white edge. A change of exposure might help also, as light may be a very important factor.

Q. What is the best way to plant African violet seed?

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Yearbooks . . .

PICTURED ARE THE THREE PRIZE WINNING YEARBOOKS AT THE DAYTON MEETING LAST YEAR.

FIRST PRIZE — Yearbook of the African Violet Society of Trenton, New Jersey. This attractive prize winner had a black cover lettered in white ink with a hand painted picture of White Girl on the front cover.

SECOND PRIZE — Greater Akron African Violet Society, Akron, Ohio. A handsome violet cover with a white plastic hinge, white printing and a hand painted picture of Blushing Maiden.

THIRD PRIZE — The Tennessee Valley African Violet Society, Knoxville, Tennessee. A lovely book with violet suede cover and a pale violet design printed on each page. Printing inside in green ink.

Let's Visit

Florence Foltz, Penna.

Traveling on the Lincoln Highway about one mile east of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, tourists from many states have been attracted to the home of Mrs. Paul Dissinger by the intriguing sign, "AFRICAN VIOLETS FOR SALE." Made of wood and attached to a tree, the sign, which was designed by Mrs. Dissinger is painted yellow with two purple blossoms.

Upon entering her spacious living room, one immediately senses that the beautiful plants displayed on the wide window sills were grown by someone with a vast store of knowledge of the Saintpaulia and its particular needs. The double windows of the living room are repeated in the dining room, where more plants are growing. And . . . as in so many of our homes . . . her choice seedlings are growing on the kitchen windows.

Mrs. Dissinger

Lancaster New Era photo

Mrs. Dissinger is truly a pioneer in the Saintpaulia world, having started her collecting more than fifteen years ago. She keeps her own collection in glazed pottery pots of various pastel shades, and waters from the bottom with spring water. She uses woods soil and after experimenting with many different formulas has decided that the only additional ingredient needed is dried cow manure. The soil is sterilized by a unique method which has proven quite satisfactory. The sieved soil is placed in 25 pound lard cans, with a depression left in the top large enough to hold a brick. Mrs. Dissinger heats a brick in the furnace until it is red hot, then with tongs, puts the brick in the depression in the can of soil. The lid is placed on the can, and it is allowed to stand for several days before the soil is used. Once a year she repots her plants; in the meantime they get no plant food, nor any poisonous sprays.

In a room upstairs leaves are rooted and young plants grown for sale. These are grown in clay pots, and usually kept in trays to facilitate watering.

Among Mrs. Dissinger's originations are Crinkles, Blue Monday, Purple Heart and a number of exquisite seedlings. Our very best wishes for continued success go to Fay Dissinger, shown in the accompanying photo with some of her plants.

Left to right Mrs. W. H. Fowkes, president of the First African Violet Society of Chicago, Mrs. Rose Trendler, president of the Elite Society and Mrs. W. C. Bornemeir, president of the Roseonna Society.

CHICAGO ORGANIZED

The dessert luncheon was delicious, the African violets were beautiful and a good time was had by all . . .

Following this afternoon of pleasant visiting and viewing Mrs. W. H. Fowkes collection of plants a group of Chicago ladies who were keenly interested in African violets decided to form a club.

On January 12, 1950 with nine enthusiasts present the first meeting was held and the charter signed. The First African Violet Society of Chicago was now organized and a limit of 24 placed on the membership.

Because interest was keen and Chicago a "big town" it soon became necessary that chapters of the First Society be formed in various sections of the city to meet the growing demand for membership.

On March 7, 1951 at the home of Mrs. W. C. Bornemeir the Roseonna Chapter of the "First African Violet Society of Chicago" was formed. The Elite Chapter was organized on March 9, 1951 at the home of Mrs. Rose Trendler.

Chicago has many active African violet collectors. They are enthusiastic and active in the National Society. Best evidence of which is the Chicago Convention at the Hotel Sherman, April 24, 25 and 26, 1952.

THE AFRICAN VIOLET- A FOLIAGE PLANT?

Mary Mayer, Ill.

Photos by Ed Allen

Mrs. Mayer with a Rosalie growing in a piece of old wood -- made from a piece of tree stump.

Yes, let it be a foliage plant, and a pretty one while you are waiting for blooms.

How to get it to bloom is, indeed, a popular question, but I'll come to that later. Let us take the violet that has no flowers, and see what we can do with foliage alone.

That moment when we see buds, and eventually flowers, is a great thrill, but while waiting and watching, I like to encourage a regular feeding program. Use a complete plant food, and increase your humidity to develop "Beautiful Foliage." I know that many arrangements can be made with foliage plants using ivy or philodendron, so why not give our violet plant a chance? Personally, I never could grow very good ivy or philodendron, but I believe it's because my thoughts are always with the violet.

Choose a balanced food (there are many good ones) and feed regularly; with sufficient light, soon they will come into bloom. Waiting will be much easier if the plant is lovely to look at and a good healthy color. Select light and dark varieties, and girl foliage, as these may be used with colorful pots or figurines, and make a good arrangement. Try it sometime with some of your pet plants.

Note the pictures and see for yourself the beauty of the leaves. If you will notice, one of my stands is an old sewing machine, a large arrangement which was entered in our Woman's Club flower show last summer, and won me a ribbon and a great deal of favorable comment, even from the men folks. I use a pan with moist sand on top where the head of the machine was removed.

I grow my violets in the basement under fluorescent lights, and maintain a regular heat

Basement bench with 40 watt fluorescent light globes.

The sun room where plants are brought from the basement benches shows revolving plant stand and the old sewing machine Mrs. Mayer uses to diplay plants on.

with the furnace -- 72° day, 62° night temperature. I keep them under the lights until just budded, and then bring them upstairs to my sunroom which has north and east exposures, and one side south onto an enclosed porch.

I like to plant new baby plants from cuttings or divisions in the following way. I put broken crockery or charcoal into 2½ inch pots for drainage, then some regular potting soil, then vermiculite to surround the new young roots, and finish with regular potting soil to within one-half inch from top. This gives the tender roots or open areas of divisions a chance to establish themselves in the vermiculite, and the plant is then ready to continue its growth in the same pot, reaching down for the fertile soil below. This saves one operation of transplanting. I find my plants take hold much faster than if put into fertilized soil. Moisten, and keep in shade for a day or two. Do not fertilize these until new growth is seen, and then with a weak solution of New Plant Life, or Hyponex, or similar foods. But do feed regularly for blossoms to be of a high quality.

And now to sum up the things to make this "Beautiful Foliage" Plant Bloom! Give all the light you can, with the increased humidity by placing pots on moist sand, peat, or vermiculite, or even small pebbles, and the feeding of plant food. Do not keep plants too wet, only moist, and let run to the dry side occasionally as roots will try to reach out for moisture. With such care, the plant you worried about not blooming will reward you with flowers. Allow your plants to become pot-bound. Plants in a too large pot take a long time to bloom; they just grow roots. A great many people make this mistake. I seldom use over a 3" pot, except when using larger growing varieties, for picture windows, such as Begonia Blue, Sapphire, or other similar ones and the du Ponts.

My soil mixture is about three parts garden soil, two parts torpedo sand, and one part of either peat, leaf mold, or compost. After this mixture is sterilized, to a gallon of it, I add about 3 cups of commercial cattle manure, 1 cup super-phosphate, and 2 cups of crushed charcoal. For small seedlings, I use the same diluted with one-half of vermiculite.

My plants grow very well in the manner I have described here, and when they are seen by my friends and customers and I am told what "beautiful foliage," I have on my plants -- to a humble violet enthusiast -- "Them's Kind Words Indeed." So good luck to you on more beautiful foliage and good violet growing until the flowers appear.

Mr. and Mrs. Childs

"FLORAL DISEASE" RAMPANT . . . . IN GAINESVILLE HOME

Jane Wilheit, Gainesville (Ga.) Daily Times Sun

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh W. Childs are suffering from a disease for which there seems to be no cure. As a matter of fact the Child's don't even want to recover, even though their disease has already reached advanced stages. They have been bitten by the African violet bug!

And what a giant-sized bug it is. Their home on Mountain View Drive has been almost entirely turned over to Saintpaulias. There is still room left of course to sit, eat and sleep, but their hundreds of violets don't leave much time for any of those things.

The bug took its first nip at Mrs. Childs in 1944 while Mr. Childs was in the Army. Her sister gave her a few leaves from her own collection which was considered quite a representative group then. But 1944 is ancient history as far as African violet culture is concerned. A dozen was considered a collection then, whereas now the Childs have over 200 different varieties, and many times that number of plants.

When Mr. Childs returned from the Army he, too, became affected by the contagious disease and their home life soon began to revolve around their plants.

When the Childs moved to Gainesville two years ago, moving their violets was a big undertaking, and they say the plants are just now recovering from the hardships of the journey.

Great caution was taken however, and many preparations made. The contractor who built their home here, said it was the first time he had ever designed a house to suit African violets. However the sun porch was built with a southeastern exposure for the benefit of the plants, and a huge daylight basement was fixed especially for them. At present the basement is being equipped with fluorescent lights so that the majority of the plants can go "underground" for the hot summer months.

"African violets are not as hard to grow as people think," Mr. Childs says. His own method sounds fool-proof, but he insists that what works for one person does not always work for another.

This is the way he does it. In the bottom of a clay pot (it is important to use an unglazed pot for better drainage) he puts a small piece of peat moss or something similar to cover the hole. On top of that goes an inch layer of vermiculite, and next an inch layer of well-rotted manure. The rest of the container is filled with loose soil, and with from one to two parts of sand or vermiculite depending on the looseness of the soil.

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THE VIOLET BUG

Pearl Kent, Nebr.

A little African violet came to our house one day,
We didn't know much about it, but decided to let it stay.
We put it on the window sill and tended it with care,
And - what do you know - before too long, we had a blossom there.
Now I tend it every morning and I check it every night,
I move it to a better place, where it can get more light,
If you don't want African violets in every little nook,
Crowding you out of house and home, and every where you look,
Take my advice — for without a doubt —
The Violet Bug will get you
If
you
don't
watch
out!

Then someone said, break off a leaf and start a plant that way,
I broke it off and cut it short and put it in water that day.
Soon tiny rootlets started, then leaves like rabbit ears.
I looked at it ten times a day, and many were my fears.
I potted it in Terralite and had it growing nicely,
Soon found I had more babies there, many more than I'd thought likely.
Now, if you don't want violets on every chair and table,
Just all that you can care for, or more than you are able,
Take my advice — for without a doubt —
The Violet Bug will get you
If
you
don't
watch
out!

My neighbor had a little plant; it's leaves were ruffled, different,
I must have one just like it! So, to a dealer I went.
I bought the plant with ruffled leaves and brought it home with care,
But when I looked more closely, I shouted "O, beware!"
Down in between the leaves I saw a tiny bit of cotton,
I grabbed a swab, got alcohol, the mealy bugs were gotten.
If you don't want to fight the pests to keep your violets healthy,
And to buy medicine enough to have made you wealthy,
Take my advice — for without a doubt —
The Violet Bug will get you
If
you
don't
watch
out!

One lady had a seed pod. Now I must try that too,
I crossed Pink Beauty on Blue Girl, it wasn't hard to do.
In about six months the seeds were ripe, a million more or less;
So, I put them up to dry a while, then planted them, as you'd guess.
After waiting weeks, the sprouts appeared, tiny green, and delicate.
Now, for a blossom. O, no, not yet; you wait and wait and wait.
I filled more cans, I bought more pots,
And still more plants, just lots and lots.
The moral of this story is, if you want room to live,
Don't ever let a neighbor in who has a plant to give!
Take my advice — for without a doubt —
The Violet Bug has got me
and
I
can't
get
out!

IS IT POSSIBLE?

Bina Edith R. Owen, Ohio

White Lady, Pink, Fantasy and Midnight Blue
Why can't we produce a yellow violet too?
Be patient my friends, be courageous and steady-
With pistols and stamens get everything ready.
Take a White Princess with blossoms so fine
And scatter on the pollen from a pumpkin vine.
If you succeed and your thumb is green
You surely will be a violet Queen.

Mrs. Fowkes
General chairman

Mrs. Magill
Program chairman

1952 Convention - Chicago, Ill.

APRIL 24 - 26

So that you may get acquainted with the Convention Chairmen in advance -- we are presenting Mary Fowkes the chairman of the Convention and the Program Chairman Ada MaGill to you with a most cordial invitation to each and every member of the Society to attend this the Sixth Annual Meeting on April 24, 25 and 26.

Meetings will be held at the Hotel Sherman. See center pages for full particulars... and do plan now to attend and to exhibit some of your choicest plants in THE SHOW.

THE CHICAGO MEETING WAS PLANNED FOR YOU!

POOR Multiple Crown Plant!

Thelma Delgardo, Kans.

Whenever we see those poor uncomfortable looking multiple crown plants growing just like "Topsy" we feel so sorry for them!

They could have been nice, evenly grown, beautiful single crown show plants, had Master or Mistress not neglected them. Of course, poor things, they cannot help it because suckers form on them, growing this way and that way with a leaf squeezed in here and another squeezed in there, all fighting for their life. Sometimes a lazy or maybe just plain ignorant Master or Mistress, removes these suckers but only after they have become large enough to root and make small plants. Then poor old "Topsy" receives such a shock that she refuses to bloom.

Then we hear the age old excuse for plain neglectfulness. That is, multiple crowns have more blooms than single crown plants. That is far from the truth as we have made a bloom count on single crown plants and we could not wish for more abundant bloom or larger blooms.

A perfectly formed single crown plant requires constant care. We start with the young plantlet by turning it in the window so that it will grow evenly and if necessary spacing the leaves with toothpicks to make them grow as we want them. The plants must be checked regularly for suckers to appear. We look over some of our plants each day and when we see tiny mouse ears so small that we can hardly tell them from buds we remove them with a sharp object. A round, sharp pointed tooth pick is good but wood applicators, that may be purchased at the drug store are better, if we sharpen them to a small point. Young plants that are kept single crown, never allowing the suckers to form, bloom earlier than the young plants that are left to grow multiple crowns. The reason for this is maybe that all their strength goes to forming buds and not for growing sucker plants.

We put small plants that we wish to grow into specimen plants, into 4 inch red clay squatty pots, purchased from the Ceramo Company, Jackson, Missouri, who advertise in the African Violet Magazine. At this writing we have a tiny plant of Lady Loretta, only 4 inches across, blooming for the first time, in one of these four inch pots. The bloom count says 18 flowers and many more buds. Tiny Helen Wilson only 3 inches across is just starting to bloom and has 5 flowers.

Of course we use a good African violet soil formula. We have often been asked where we buy our potting soil, because our plants show they are in good soil. It seems to be the opinion of most violet growers that we buy our soil if our plants are growing well. We use our own soil formula sterilizing it and mixing it by hand so that we are sure it is perfectly blended.

Our soil does not bog down or become hard. It is light and porous, having good drainage qualities and contains everything a violet plant enjoys for its dinner, regardless of the high prices of food.

Plants do not have to become tall and old before blooming abundantly. We have a Double Russian, a young plant, blooming for the first time that has so many flowers it is impossible to count them, as they are so close together. Double Neptune, also in first bloom, is completely covered with large flowers. It also is maturing 3 nice fat seed pods, Double Neptune x Rosie O'Grady, Double Neptune x White Lady and Double Neptune selfed. The 3 seed pods have not slowed down the amount of bloom. We have year old plants, that a bloom count showed forty or more blooms on a plant.

Our Fringettes, which are 2 year old plants were the most breath taking sight for all who saw them in bloom. People who are not violet growers point to the Fringettes saying "I like these best." When counting flowers of the Fringettes we found Mauvette with 66 flowers, Red Lavender 67 flowers, Dark Blue with 63 and Light Blue had 40 blossoms. Pure White is not blooming as we have used all its leaves for propagation. Blue Lavender we lost our old plant and have only young plantlets of it.

Poor old Redhead Girl, she is two years old and so wobbly in her pot that we came near dumping her on the compost pile, as we have young Redhead Girls to take her place. The reason she did not get dumped was leaves down, plantlets and seedlings requiring all of our time.

When we got around to giving Redhead Girl her funeral she was a mass of bloom. We counted seventy-five flowers and she was loaded with buds. The "Girl" was so wobbly in her pot she swayed with the least touch like a graceful dancing ballerina.

No! She did not have crown rot, root rot or nematodes. She had just grown so tall and heavy she was loose in the pot. We gathered some smooth stones about the size of small eggs, sterilized them, then placed them in the pot close to the tall stalk, pressing them into the soil so that they would stay there and hold the plant firmly in an upright position.

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"WE JUMPED OVERBOARD"

Betty Skelton, Pa.

"I didn't dream" -- "hadn't any idea" -- I never thought" -- were snatch phrases I caught as I passed among the spectators at our Trenton Show. Sweet music to my ears! The majority of the people in this area just didn't seem to be interested in African violets. Any effort we put forth was completely ignored except by our members and we couldn't attract many new members at all. Local newspapers would give us little or no publicity, we considered ourselves fortunate when they would print our monthly meeting notice. After contacting one newspaper three months in a row to take a picture of our group for publication, they did send a photographer -- but the picture was never printed! Florists here carry Saintpaulias for holiday trade mostly; one person went to eight shops before she found a single plant she could purchase. African violet lovers are heartsick to see the neglected plants in the shops, anyway, and the florists tell us they cannot grow them properly! No one seemed to want us or our violets.

Naturally, you can understand the skeptical, stunned Club that first heard our plans of the show. The committee felt something had to be done -- SINK OR SWIM! We knew it would mean a great deal of hard work, time, and money, but from it, perhaps, we could show the public what we were doing and how interesting the hobby of raising African violets could be.

In the three years we have been organized, we had only put on one show and that was a small, borrowed space in a department store. From that-to spending $150 rental on a ballroom was enough to stupify any half-strangled club. To cover this expense we sold spaces, 10 x 10, to commercial growers of African violets and to sellers of materials pertaining to the plants. For the latter exhibitors, we stipulated they had to show at least 12 plants in their space.

The ballroom was in the War Memorial Building in Trenton, ideally located for parking facilities and bus service. The room was large, well-lighted, and so beautifully decorated we needed none of the usual artificial props to enhance the setting of our show.

We spent $140 for programs, hundreds of which were sent out by club members prior to the show. Posters were printed and placed in about a 60 mile radius of Trenton. By selling advertising space on the back page of the programs, we covered the expense of them.

A publicity campaign lasted throughout the summer. Articles concerning our club and show were sent periodically to over 20 newspapers. Garden magazines were notified and radio stations contacted.

A high-light of the show was the introduction of a new seedling belonging to Mr. Edgar Harris. The committee chose Mary Wilson, prominent lecturer and T-V Star to be honored by having the violet named for her. She invited Mr. Harris and myself to visit her on her program and at that time, we were given the marvelous opportunity of publicizing our show over television.

Deep appreciation is felt by our club for Mr. Harris, for it was to his untiring efforts that much of the success of our show is credited.

In the articles I wrote, brag -- I'll say I did -- "over 1,000 plants would be displayed." Let me tell you, confidentially, I was worried about that and the very first thing I did when the show opened was to go around and count the plants. My brag turned out to be true for there was well over the mark. In the club entries, we had 309 competitive specimens with 114 varieties. Including commercials, the varieties exceeded 150.

Mrs. J. W. Freed, Mrs. Neil Miller and Mrs. Hagerty Bell did an excellent job on the judging. The 23 sections of the show included color specimens, seedlings, table settings, fancy containers, unusual pottings, novelties, variegated, dwarf, invitation and open classes.

We used three long rows of tables completely covered in white on which to display our entries. Around the sides of the room were the commercial spaces. The Trenton Florist Association rented and decorated the stage with floral arrangments. Near the entrance comfortable chairs borrowed from a store were placed for the viewer's pleasure. Here club hostesses greeted and registered guests, gave out literature pertaining to the National Society and lured spectators into joining our club! Souvenir pins made and donated by club members were sold. Plants raised by club members were brought in and sold in the name and for the club. Hostesses served in shifts of twelve at all times. The show was open from 2 P. M. to 10 P. M. on Thursday, and on Friday, from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M.

Hundreds of people visited our show, and as they left, we could tell we had at last succeeded in passing on to them some of the enthusiasm we find in our fascinating house plants. My father has tolerantly looked and listened African violets -- I'm crazy about my hobby and everybody knows it. My family says I'm beginning to resemble a violet, just can't help myself, I just assume everybody wants to see and hear about them. Anyhow, when he came to the show I knew it was just to humor his eldest, nothing more. But I grabbed on to him and proceeded to show him this bloom, that foliage, these varieties. As we passed down the rows I realized he was really interested in

The fall show of The African Violet Society of Trenton, New Jersey.

what he was seeing, and after my Daddy had seen every single violet in that room (I made sure of that), he turned to me and said, "Sister, you got me. I'm going to knock the wall out of that back room of mine and install windows. I'm going to grow African violets, where can I buy some seeds?" SEEDS -- golly, you could have knocked me over with a bloom, I'm not "seed-struck" yet! Yes Daddy was convinced, African violets were the ideal plants to grow -- from the seed up. That was one convert I know of.

It was a beautiful show. Anyone who saw it will readily agree.

Mr. Edgar Harris was chairman with a very capable committee consisting of Mrs. C. Croll, Mrs. M. Thoburn, Mrs. R. Brennfleck, Mrs. C. Appenzeller and myself, doing the publicity.

To many of you who read this, you will say -- that show wasn't much. True, many of your clubs have put on bigger and better shows and had a larger turnout. Remember, we have been struggling for recognition and this show has been a milestone for us.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lawton started our club thru a personal ad in the newspaper and with three people it was organized. When she saw the show she kept repeating, "It's my dream come true."

For all of us, it was a triumph. We have gained confidence and feel rewarded that at last, others had seen through us, how wonderful African violets are. Just to see Mrs. Lawton bursting with pride at her "baby" was gratifying. She beamed!

It was a tired, over-worked committee at the show's end, but one that was already talking about our next show. We did jump overboard -- but landed right on top of an AFRICAN VIOLET!

AN OLD FASHIONED ROOM

This attractive exhibit was staged by the African Violet Society of the East Bay.

Composed of members in the San Francisco area the Society's striking display emphasized the complete harmony with which African violets and antique furniture compliment each other.

KEEPING UP WITH THE SHOWS

ELGIN HAS TWO EXHIBITS

Two exhibits were given this fall by the combined efforts of the Unique Saintpaulia and the Lady Constance African Violet clubs of Elgin, Illinois.

The first was the very successful participation in the annual Mens Garden Show, held at the Masonic Temple August 25-26, 1951. One side of a large hall was entirely an African violet display. The local paper stated that the violet exhibit "stole the show."

Included in the display was Mrs. Henry Lange's nice collection of 24 large blooming plants, all grown from seeds, all different in shades and color. Mrs. John C. Wills displayed five of her registered seedlings. Each member contributed to the exhibit with the finest plant of her collection. The outstanding honor went to Mrs. Fred Behling who exhibited a lovely Red Bi-Color, having several fertilized seed pods.

Judges for the African Violet Show were Mrs. E. G. Magill of Aurora, and Mrs. Elof E. Carlson of Rockford, Illinois.

The second exhibit was held in the newly constructed Methodist Church of South Elgin. Fire destroyed the original church, and in order to

The African Violet Exhibit really "stole the show" at the ninth annual Elgin Flower Show staged at the Masonic Temple Saturday and Sunday. Pictured against a background of a portion of the violet display are (left to right) Dr. Lloyd C. Blackman, chairman of awards; Hilding Johnson, chairman of judges, and John D. Stewart, president of the sponsoring organization, the Men's Garden Club of Elgin, Inc.

Left to right, Mrs. Fred Behling, president of Unique Club; Mrs. John Wills, show chairman; Mrs. Stanley McBride, president of Lady Constance Club; Mrs. Joseph Winston and Mrs. Albert Marshall.

Elgin Daily Courier — News photos

help finance a new organ, these two clubs cooperated by exhibiting violets and sponsoring a plant sale, which included many potted violet leaves. Lovers of violets kept the five women assigned to the sale plenty busy, and an unbelievably large sum was raised for the fund.

Mrs. Ernest Benson won the award for the largest plant in the show. Blue ribbon winners were Mesdames John C. Wills, D. M. Weed, Ray Neidbert, Reuban Svenson, W. O. Beckner and Fred Behling.

Judges for the show were Mrs. Elof Carlson of Rockford and Mrs. Vida Robbins of Chicago.

Mrs. John C. Wills was chairman for both shows as she is the "Mother" of all violet lovers in this area, and was the organizer of both clubs. Mrs. Fred Behling is president of the Unique Saintpaulia club, and Mrs. Stanley McBride is the president of the Lady Constance.

Akron Beacon Journal photo

Above right, Mrs. Arthur Radtke and Mrs. Frank Oros holding her "Queen of the Show" plant at the 1951 Akron Show.

WINDSOR SAINTPAULIA EXHIBIT

The recently organized Windsor Saintpaulia Society exhibited one hundred and fifty flowering plants in a non-competitive "Violet Booth" at the third annual Essex County Flower Show, held at the Windsor Armories August 24th and 25th. The exhibit included about seventy-five varieties, including Fischer's Fringettes, and Ulery's Rainbow Series. The plants were displayed in three tiers of twenty-foot lengths, covered with pale yellow paper. We were very happy to have been awarded the Labatt Trophy for the best amateur display at the show.

Several of our members also won prizes for plants entered in competition. Mrs. Bud Woodruff won first prize (Silver cup donated by Windsor's Mayor) for Snow Prince, Mrs. Mid Hinton, second for Rainbow Rose, Miss Erma Peppler, third for Dark Beauty. In the class for "blues" Mrs. Mid Hinton, first for Light Blue Fringette, Miss Erma Peppler, second for Ionantha, Mr. Frank Hull, third for Blue Chard. Mrs. Dorothy Reaume and Mrs. Biel of Detroit's "Border Cities Club" acted as judges.

In September about fifty of our plants were displayed at the Leamington Fall Fair, and judging from the interest shown in our display, it is quite evident that a club will be organized in that district very shortly.

Mr. Frank Hull, President of the Windsor Society, receiving the Labatt Trophy awarded for the best all around exhibit at the show from Mrs. A. M. Wellman, convenor of the Essex County Flower Show.

Mrs. Moody and Mrs. Masters

ERWIN TENNESSEE

Introducing all of the "newest varieties" of Saintpaulias to African violet lovers and garden club members of near by towns -- Mrs. J. R. Moody and Mrs. Fain Masters of Erwin, Tennessee held an open house exhibit at the home of Mrs. Moody in September.

Many of the plants shown at the Dayton Convention were on display throughout Mrs. Moody's spacious home. They were shown in containers of antique china and silver -- some were even found growing in grandmother's shoes. Mrs. Master's violet tree covered with mountain moss in which African violets were arranged was an outstanding point of interest.

FORT WAYNE SHOW

On November 1st and 2nd the Neptune Chapter of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, held its first Exhibit at the Public Library. Approximately 800 signed the attendance record. It was a non-competitive show and over 300 plants comprising 100 varieties were shown.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Call For Meeting

Proxy

Ballot

BE SURE TO VOTE

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

CALL FOR MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held on April 26, 1952 at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Illinois, at 2:30 P. M. for the transaction of the following business:

1 - To elect a President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and four Directors-at-large. (See following ballot.)

2 - To hear the reports of Officers, Directors and Committees of the Society and to act thereon.

3 - To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

FLOYD L. JOHNSON, President

PROGRAM

Registration will be open Wednesday afternoon in the Lounge.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

8:00 A. M. To 12:00 Noon — Registration ..... Lounge

2:00 P. M. — Convention Convenes ..... Louis XVI Room
Mrs. W. H. Fowkes, Convention Chairman, Presiding.

Welcome to Chicago by Robert T. Van Tress,
Horticulturist for the Chicago Park District.

"Fundamentals of African Violet Culture,"
John S. Coryall, Assistant Professor of Horticulture, Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas.

"The Doctor Diagnosis,"
Mrs. Marie Mooar, instructor of Botany and Pathology, Michigan State College, E. Lansing, Michigan.

Presentation of National President.

5:00 P. M. To 6:00 P. M. — Grand Opening of Exhibits ..... Crystal Room
(Open to members only.)

6:30 P. M. — Dinner Meeting ..... Louis XVI Room
Mrs. Ferne Kellar, Presiding.

"Saintpaulia in American Horticulture,"
Dr. W. H. Camp, President of the American Horticultural Council.

"What is New Among African Violets Since We Met A Year Ago?"
(Kodachrome Slides) Mrs. H. J. Sweeney, Xenia, Ohio.

9:00 P. M. To 11:00 P. M. — Exhibit room open ..... Crystal Room
(Open to members only.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

8:00 A. M. — Registration ..... Lounge

8:00 A. M. To 11:00 A. M. — Exhibit room open ..... Crystal Room
(Open to members only.)

This morning is open for the privilege of getting acquainted with other members, for sightseeing and shopping and to allow extra time for the Exhibit.

10:00 A. M. — Morning Meeting ..... Club Room VII
"How to Go About Organizing Local Chapters," Mrs. Ralph W. Berst, Dayton, Ohio.

12:00 Noon — Luncheon Meeting ..... Louis XVI Room
Mrs. H. W. Martin, Presiding.

"As I Remember-" Alma Wright, Editor, African Violet Magazine.
"Shall We Hybridize -- How, What and Why?"
Dr. R. Milton Carlton, Director of Research, Vaughn's Seed Company, Chicago, Illinois.

"What is Going on Under Glass?"
(Symposium)
Henry Ten Hagen, Leader, Warsaw, N. Y.
Paul Rockelmann, Fischer's Flowers, Atlantic City, N. J.
Mrs. Merle Hardy, St. Genevieve, Quebec, Canada.
Paul Slough, Ulery's Greenhouses, Springfield, Ohio.

4:30 P. M. To 6:00 P. M. — Exhibit room open ..... Crystal Room
(Open to members only.)

6:30 P. M. — Dinner Meeting ..... Bal Tavrin (6th floor)
Floyd L. Johnson, President, Presiding.

"Speaking of Operations," Montague Free, Staff Horticulturist, The Home Garden.

Presentation of Awards for 1952, Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Maysville, Kentucky, Chairman of Awards Committee.

Reception ..... West Room
Hostesses, First African Violet Society of Chicago, Roseanna Chapter and Elite Chapter.

9:00 P. M. To 11:00 P. M. — Exhibit room open ..... Crystal Room
(Open to members only.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

9:00 A. M. — Morning Meeting ..... Louis XVI Room
Boyce M. Edens, Presiding.

"Gardening with Bacteria," Phillip Wells, Fellow Royal Horticultural Society, Haddon Heights, New Jersey.

"Panel Discussion of Research Work Thus Far," Henry Peterson, Leader, Cincinnati, Ohio, Chairman Research Committee.
Committe members:
William Carter, Tewkesbury, Mass.
Mrs. T. M. Greer, Golden, Colo.
Neil C. Miller, Penns Grove, N. J.
Evan Roberts, E. Lansing, Mich.

11:00 A. M. To 1:00 P. M. — Exhibit room open ..... Crystal Room
(Open to members only.)

1:30 P. M. — Luncheon Meeting ..... Louis XVI Room
Floyd L. Johnson, President, Presiding.
Annual Business Meeting.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

CONVENTION

SHERMAN HOTEL, CHICAGO, ILL.

APRIL 24, 25, 26, 1952

Registration fee for the entire convention including two luncheon meetings, one dinner meeting and a banquet meeting will be twenty dollars. $20.00

The reception will be given for the members with the compliments of the three Chicago Clubs.

Please send your reservations as soon as possible. If you cannot attend the entire convention, please check below the meetings you will attend. We MUST know definitely how many to prepare for.

_____Thursday Dinner Meeting $5.50

_____Friday Luncheon Meeting $4.25

_____Friday Banquet Meeting
Members (Husband and Wife) Each $6.00
GUESTS $6.00

_____Friday Nite Reception

_____Saturday Luncheon Meeting $4.25

SIGN and send your meeting reservations **not later** than Monday April 14th, 1952, to the Reservations Chairman:

MRS. ERNEST R. PFOFF
6200 MANDELL AVENUE
CHICAGO 30, ILLINOIS

We suggest that you make your hotel reservations early, so that the hotel can confirm your reservation.

SPECIAL MENU NOTICE

The management of the Sherman Hotel requests that if fish is desired for Friday meals that you please check the enclosure and mail it in to Mrs. Pfoff along with your reservation.

☐ Fish for Luncheon Meeting, Friday noon.

☐ Fish for Dinner Meeting, Friday night.

☐ Special Diabetic Meals.

Name _____

Address _____

RULES FOR EXHIBIT AND YEAR BOOKS

1. Open to all commercial, wholesale, retail and amateur growers, who are members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Viewing or exhibiting in show may be gained by registration card only.

2. Entries will be received for Commercial Growers in the Club Room No. 1 and the Amateur Growers will be received in the Jade Room on the First Floor of the Hotel Sherman, between the hours of 9 A. M. and 3 P. M. on Wednesday the 23rd of April, 1952 and between the hours of 8 A. M. and 11 A. M. on Thursday the 24th of April, 1952.

3. Entries may not be removed until 2 P. M. Saturday, April 26th. All entries must be removed by 4:30 P. M. Saturday, April, 26th.

4. Exhibitors will furnish all placards and printed material pertaining to their exhibit.

5. The Silver Cup of The African Violet Society of America will be awarded to the best registered name plant, Award of Merit Ribbon and Honorable Mention Ribbon will be the awards to the runners up in this class. The above awards are given by the National Society to any members of the N. A. V. S. Inc. Special gold ribbon will be awarded for the best collection of 3 registered named plants -- this award is given by the Chicago Societies only to a member that belongs to a club affiliated with the N. A. V. S. Inc. One purple ribbon will be awarded for the best Year Book. Blue, red and yellow ribbons will be awarded to runners up. One gold ribbon will be awarded for the best Club Project and Educational Class, entered by invitation only. Blue, red and yellow ribbons will be awarded to runner up projects. One purple ribbon will be awarded to the best seedling plant, grown by an amateur, and never before shown at a National Convention Show. Blue, red and yellow ribbons will be awarded for all other classes.

6. Decision of the judges will be final.

7. Care will be exercised in safeguarding all exhibits, but no responsibility will be assumed for loss or damage. The Exhibition Room will be locked at all times, except during the hours of show, at which time numerous attendants will be on duty.

8. Reasonable care will be exercised in barring diseased plants, but no responsibility will be assumed.

9. For Commercial Growers — First, second and third ribbons will be awarded in both "A" and "B" classes.

   (A) Seedlings, actually hybridized by exhibitor or released rights given exhibitor and not previously exhibited or judged.

   (B) Sports or Mutants, to have been discovered by exhibitor or persons connected with business. Not previously exhibited or judged.

10. Plants will be sold by Commercial Growers only during the time the Exhibition Room will be open.

CLASSES

Class 1. YEAR BOOKS
Class 2. EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS
(By invitation only)
Section 1. Plant Propagation
Section 2. Soil and Plant Foods
Section 3. Arrangements
Class 3. SEEDLINGS
Class 4. PURPLES
Class 5. WHITES
Class 6. DOUBLES
Class 7. PINKS
Class 8. GIRLS
Class 9. ORCHIDS and BICOLORS
Class 10. COLLECTIONS — THREE DIFFERENT VARIETIES
Class 11. BLUES
Class 12. DUPONTS — AMAZONS — SUPREMES
Class 13. UNUSUAL CONTAINERS
Class 14. CLUB PROJECTS (By invitation only)
Class 15. COMMERCIAL GROWERS
(a) Seedlings
(b) Sports or Mutants
Class 16. REDS

AWARDS

NATIONAL AWARD —Given by A. V. S. A. Inc. ..... Silver Cup
2nd Prize " " " ..... Award of Merit Ribbon
3rd Prize " " " ..... Honorable Mention Ribbon
(See page 17 this magazine.)

MEMBERS MAKING ENTRIES IN Class 10 **MUST BELONG TO** an Affiliated Club
Best Collection of 3 plants ..... Gold Ribbon
2nd Best Collection of 3 plants ..... Purple Ribbon

YEAR BOOKS ..... Purple Ribbon
2nd Prize ..... Blue Ribbon
3rd Prize ..... Red Ribbon
Honorable Mention ..... Yellow Ribbon

CLUB PROJECTS ..... Gold Ribbon
2nd Prize ..... Blue Ribbon
3rd Prize ..... Red Ribbon
Honorable Mention ..... Yellow Ribbon

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT ..... Gold Ribbon
2nd Prize ..... Blue Ribbon
3rd Prize ..... Red Ribbon

BEST GROWN SEEDLINGS ..... Purple Ribbon
2nd Prize ..... Blue Ribbon
3rd Prize ..... Red Ribbon
Honorable Mention ..... Yellow Ribbon

ALL OTHER CLASSES — 1st Prize ..... Blue Ribbon
2nd Prize ..... Red Ribbon
3rd Prize ..... White Ribbon
Honorable Mention ..... Yellow Ribbon

FOR COMMERCIAL GROWERS — First, second and third ribbons will be awarded in both "A" and "B" classes.

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

All requests for hotel accommodations for the African Violet Society of America's Annual Meeting should be made to the Hotel Sherman.

HOTEL SHERMAN
RANDOLPH AND CLARK STREETS
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Please reserve the following hotel accommodations for my party in the name of

_____

Address _____

Please indicate the number and type of each room requested. Guest rates are

_____Single room from $4.95 $5.95 $6.95 $7.95 $8.95 $9.95

_____Double bedroom for two persons from $7.95 $8.95 $9.95 $10.95 $11.95 $12.95 $13.95

_____Twin Bedded room from $10.95 $11.95 $12.95 $13.95 $14.95

Two rooms, connecting bath between

_____For 2 persons from $11.90 $13.90

_____For 3 persons from $14.90 $16.90

_____For 4 persons from $17.90 $19.90

The Hotel Sherman cannot guarantee any specific rate, but will attempt to assign accommodations requested.

THE REPORT of the NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The members of the Nominating Committee respectfully submit the following list of members as candidates for office to be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, Saturday April 26, 1952.

- ☐ For President ..... Floyd L. Johnson, N. Y.
- ☐ For 1st Vice President ..... Mrs. W. P. Dahnke, Kan.
- ☐ For 2nd Vice-President ..... Mrs. E. G. Magill, Ill.
- ☐ For Recording Secretary ..... Mrs. H. W. Martin, Nebr.
- ☐ For Membership Secretary ..... Mrs. Joseph Hodan, Ohio
- ☐ For Corresponding Secretary ..... Mrs. George R. Klewe, Ohio
- ☐ Treasurer ..... Boyce M. Edens, Ga.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Vote for 4)

- ☐ Mrs. Claude Greeley, Ill.
- ☐ Mrs. Harry Moeller, Ohio
- ☐ Mrs. Maurine Bush, Colo.
- ☐ Mrs. M. Merle Hardy, Canada

PROXY FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Please be sure and sign this proxy in order to make your mail ballot legal in accordance with Article V, Section 10 of the By-Laws of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

I, _____

of _____ in the state of _____

hereby appoint the Proxy Committee consisting of Ferne Kellar, Myrtle Radtke and Alma Wright, my proxy; with full power of substitution to vote for me at the Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. in Chicago, Illinois, on Saturday, April 26, 1952, as fully as I could if personally present.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 1952.

Signature _____

Proxy ballots close at 12:00 noon April 1, 1952.
please mail proxy to:

FERNE V. KELLAR
1223 E. OAK PARK
DES MOINES, IOWA

Left to right, Mrs. A. H. Nahrwald, Mrs. Paul Berg and Mrs. S. S. Schaberg working on plants for the exhibit.

The plants were displayed on tables with many unusual individual arrangements. There were several displays on Lazy Susans and others of various shape arranged in tiers to show the plants to their best advantage. There was a very excellent demonstration of propagation methods including seedlings in various stages of growth. One table was devoted to literature, different types of plant foods and containers.

Members were on hand to talk to the interested persons who attended the Exhibit and visitors given a chance to register their desire to join a club. From the response, it is hoped that more clubs may be formed in Ft. Wayne. There are twenty five members in the Neptune Chapter which was organized two years ago.

Mrs. S. S. Schaberg was general chairman of the Exhibit. Assisting her was Mrs. Wm. Sanders, chairman of the hostess committee, Mrs. A. H. Narhwald, chairman of staging and scheduling, Mrs. Chas. Merz. chairman of properties, Mrs. Carl Rachewig, chairman of registration, Mrs. Albert Schoenfelt, chairman of classification and Mrs. Paul Berg chairman of publicity.

AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In the very furthermost corner of the United States in the State of Washington in the city of Bellingham, there is one more collector and grower of African violets . . . Ruth Doxsee. Bellingham is a scenic spot with her many parks, a view over the Puget Sound and the famous San Juan Islands, and snow capped Mt. Baker to visit for winter sports. Violet enthusiasts going through to Vancouver, British Columbia (75 miles away) stop invariably to see the violets as Ruth is just off Highway 99.

Each year the garden clubs in the city of Bellingham and surrounding communities have a beautiful flower show. Last spring they chose for their theme "Flower Fair." Mrs. Doxsee was urged to show some of her collection of violets in a display using this theme idea.

A six foot plot was selected that had a framed inset in the background. The 12 inch frame was painted a brick red. By using bricks for the base enclosure, damp peat moss, and clay pots entirely, there was the uniformity of the brick color. The background was painted an ice

Mrs. Doxsee's exhibit, below.

green. Ivies in wall brackets softened the arrangement of the three shelves of violets. With a spotlight placed in the upper left hand side to throw more light on the exhibit, it brought out the colors of the violets and threw the shadows from the ivies. The violets had just begun their spring bloom so were not in full blossom.

Not knowing that any of the commercial exhibits were to be judged, Mrs. Doxsee was surprised to find a blue ribbon on the exhibit.

ST. CATHERINES ONTARIO

The Garden City African Violet Society of St. Catherines, Ontario, was formed September 20, 1950, at the home of Mrs. F. A. Campbell who was then made president. The club boasts of a membership of twenty-one and hold their monthly meetings in the members' homes.

In May 1951, a very successful tea and display of violets was held at the home of Mrs. E. Moir. The violets were artistically arranged on a tiered platform in front of the fireplace and on tables on each side. They were also arranged at advantageous nooks about the home and formed a beautiful center for the tea table. Several plants were given as door prizes to the guests.

The following officers were elected for 1951-1952:

President,	Mrs. F. A. Campbell
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. W. H. Irvine
Secretary,	Mrs. B. F. Easton
Treasurer,	Mrs. E. Moir

Plants were displayed on this tiered platform before the fireplace.

REGIONAL COUNCILORS - 1952

REGION # 1 - Miss Harriet F. Lawton
20 Edgewood Ave.
Longmeadow, Mass.

REGION # 2 - Mrs. Walter Sillers
619 Fourth Avenue
Altoona, Pa.

REGION # 3 - Mrs. James B. Carey
706 Garden Avenue
Fountain City, Tenn.

REGION # 4 - Mrs. Dale Ferrall
Route 5 - Box 510
Battle Creek, Mich.

REGION # 5 - Mrs. Jacobus Kruyne
856 East Birch Avenue
Milwaukee 11, Wisconsin

REGION # 6 - Mrs. H. R. Logan
1335 Wayne Avenue
Topeka, Kansas

REGION # 7 - Mrs. Cliff Wheeler
2132 Denison Street
Muskogee, Okla.

REGION # 8 - Mrs. Theo M. Greer
1822 Arapahoe Street
Golden, Colo.

REGION # 9 - Mrs. Luella Chipman
Box 333
Lodge Grass, Montana

REGION # 10 - Mrs. J. E. Mackey
616 Pine Street
Alhambra, Calif.

REGION # 11 - Mrs. D. A. Marshall
45 Winthrop Avenue
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

QUESTION BOX

LAURETTA L. LITTIG 3016 Jefferson Ave. Davenport, Iowa

We seem to have a lot of idiosyncrasies (what a word) this month.

Susan Reingans got upside-down baby plants in the bottom of the pot when she planted a leaf. That was really something. I saw a similar oddity at one of our Flower Shows several years ago. There was a glazed pot with saucer attached and a small opening for drainage where the pot was fastened to the saucer. There was no plant on the top, but an African violet in bloom was growing out of the little hole at the bottom. The lady who had it said she had no idea how it grew that way.

Mrs. Lamach has a "Blue Bird" with flower stems growing one on top of the other. I believe it must be natural for Saintpaulias to do out of the ordinary things. I have a "Blue Bird" on which a number of the flowers are just like "Star Sapphire." I am trying to root one of these flower stems to see what I'll get.

Mrs. Lamach's "Ruffles" is getting little plantlets on the end of the flower stems which seems to be a characteristic of this plant. These are called hanging baskets and if left on will blossom -- as she says hers are doing.

I'd say Mrs. Lines has a sport from her Viking leaf as one of her little plants has light orchid blossoms.

I have had inquiries as to the best way to pollinate blossoms. There are several ways to do this. Just can't say which is best but I will tell you how I like to do it.

After I decide on the two plants I wish to cross and put them on the table before me -- I generally pick the one with the better foliage for the mother plant -- I take off a mature blossom from the other plant -- one that has been bloomed out at least four days. Then I cut open the yellow anthers with a sharp knife and pick out the pollen on the end of a tooth pick. I touch it gently to the stigma (the tip end of the little projection coming out the center of the blossom near the anthers) of a fully matured blossom on the mother plant. Be sure the pollen adheres to the stigma. If the cross takes, the flower on the mother plant should drop off in a few days, and soon you will notice the ovary (which will be the seed pod) enlarging. When it is ripe the stem and pod will dry up, and is ready to be picked off. When making the cross you should write the date and name of the violet used for crossing on a little piece of paper and fasten to the flower stem on the mother plant. This is for your future record and also as a reminder not to pick off the little seed pod.

QUESTIONS

Everyone who writes about African violets, says they need humidity but no one says how much. I would like to know the proper humidity.

Mrs. Neal J. Bellardo, N. Y.

About six weeks ago I rooted a number of African violet leaves, each of which produced a healthy root system. I planted them in small pots and all except one has baby plants. This one sloughed off a couple weeks ago and the leaf rotted. I took it off and set the pot under the sink. Yesterday I got out this pot of dried dirt with the idea of dumping it and in trying to loosen the soil I noticed a rather hard lump in the bottom of the pot. I rapped on the pot to loosen the soil and out came a bunch of violet shoots, about twenty-five, bleached as white as snow, and growing upside down in the pot. Now, I'm wondering what caused this upside down growth. I repotted it in new soil setting it upright as it should be, and it now stands straight as a soldier. I have rooted at least fifty leaves but this is the first upside down affair. Have you a reason for it?

Susan G. Reingans, Wis.

Will you kindly let me know if my African violets will live indefinitely in Black Magic? I have been bothered a long while with black and white mites and I have used two bottles of N. N. O. R. but still have mites on some plants. My next step was to transfer them into Black Magic Soil. Now my problem is, will they live indefinitely on it or just for a year or so?

Mrs. Daisy Olson, Calif.

I have a Blue Bird plant that has been blooming with a double blossom stem -- that is, one stem comes out in the usual way and in a short time, another stem comes out just below the first one, from the very same space on the main crown. This second stem doesn't produce as large a flower cluster and doesn't quite reach the same length but the flowers are just as nice. None of my other plants have ever performed this way and am wondering if this is usual for Blue Bird.

On my Ruffles, when each flower stem comes out there is a small regular plant and the flower stem comes right out the little plant and on the end of the stem where the blossom comes out there are four little leaves. I started to remove the little plantlet, when I noticed the blossom stem forming in the middle of it. Is this a characteristic of Ruffles or just a freak way of growing for this plant?

Mrs. Theo Lamach, Mont.

Sometime ago I started a Viking leaf that had been given to me. I put it in a small pot and grew two little plants. They both had buds but when the first one bloomed, the blossom was a light orchid so decided it wasn't a Viking leaf after all that had been given to me. However when the second little plant bloomed it was a true Viking blossom so now I have two plants in the same pot with entirely different blossoms.

Mrs. J. R. Lines, Iowa

I am having "double trouble" with my African violets. First of all I discovered I had Cyclamen mites. I dipped them in N. N. O. R. solution. Now I have something else -- I am very suspicious of nematodes. There is a small worm working on the roots of my plants. This worm is white or light grey with a brown head, and possibly some brown on its back. Can you tell me what this is?

I have raised violets for nine years and never had any kind of trouble before so am at a loss to know what to do for them. Seems like every one here is having the same trouble.

Mrs. Frank Hempker, Ohio

Are African violet leaves that curl under a sign of abnormality or disease? If so what causes should be considered in addition to broad mite, and what treatment other than dusting with sulphur? I find these under-curling leaves quite consistently in my Mentor Boy group, and to some extent in my other varieties. Since I have so many of these curled leaves and since the literature makes so little mention of them I am wondering if they represent a tendency that is more normal than abnormal, or perhaps a condition that can be remedied by improvement in lighting, watering or feeding.

By curling leaves I do not mean when they curl down over the edge of the pot, but the leaves curl or cup down around the edge even tho the plant may be upright.

Another thing, when leaves lose color or turn yellow without losing any of their firmness, are they merely aging normally or does this change imply some problem in metabolism which can be corrected?

Miss Winifred W. Arrington, N. Y.

My violet plants are simply covered with tiny white insects. By using a magnifying glass they look like tiny flies although I've never seen them fly. Can you tell me how to get rid of these?

Mamie Morton, Ill.

A friend of mine tipped over a plant. The leaves were not broken but were bruised, and now have become variegated. Could this be caused from being bruised?

Mrs. David Ross, Ohio

ANSWERS

Tiny White Flies

To Mamie Morton, Ill.

I, too, had these tiny white flies, and got rid of them by spraying with Volck solution.

Mrs. J. A. Olson, Iowa

Drooping Leaves

To Mrs. J. C. Backus, Tenn.

Practically all African violets naturally droop some. There are a few varieties, mostly of the Girl family, that seem to want to grow more or less upright. But all long petiole violets will tend to droop as they mature. Young plants will hold their leaves up in the air but as they mature and the petioles get longer and the leaves get larger, there is more and more tendency to droop. If the plant gets dry enough to wilt, when the plant is watered, and the leaves revive, they practically never go all the way back to where they were before. A paste board collar supporting the leaves in an upright position for a couple of weeks can correct this condition when it is caused simply by a previous wilting.

I believe that plenty of light has a tendency to cause the plant to spread out, and the leaves to droop. There is a range of light intensity -- minimum light (around six or eight hundred foot candles) giving beautiful dark green foliage but few flowers -- and a maximum light (a thousand to twelve hundred foot candles) that gives plenty of bloom but poor foliage. In my opinion, when you are working with light on the lower intensity part of the allowable light range, your leaves will not have so much of a tendency to droop as they will if you are working near the upper limit. Proof of this is that, in general, people who complain about drooping leaves usually have plenty of bloom, while those who do not have this trouble often complain about the scarcity of their flowers.

Then there is this small pot situation. Put a big plant in a small pot, and the leaves will droop sure as shooting. I am a "big-pot" man myself and I say that most mature, fully grown, well developed Saintpaulias need a six inch pot. If you don't shift plants from a four inch pot when they need it you are going to have badly drooping leaves.

I do not object too much to drooping leaves in some varieties (Blue Warrior for example). The drooping leaves, like gleaming dark green shingles on a roof, make up a good part of the attraction of the variety.

H. G. Harvey, Ga.

Picking off Flower Stems

To Mrs. Irwin Jackson, Pa.

I have done a lot of experimenting on my African violets to see what difference taking off stems makes on the plants. I find if you leave the stem on until it is shrivelled and brown it comes off easily because when it is held to the plant it is dried and healed, and the plant does not bleed. If taken off before this, a lot of juice runs off, and plant may not be as strong.

Some plant leaves droop down because they are heavy -- and some from too much watering or too little, others because it is their natural way to grow.

Helen D. Burchell, Mich.

As to taking off the flower stems when the flowers have all drooped, this does not harm your plant. We grow our plants for their beauty, and a lot of dead stems doesn't add to their

attraction, in fact it spoils the appearance of the plant. Another thing, in my opinion, you get more blossoms when the dead stems are kept picked off as they take some of the nourishment from the plant. On some of our out door plants if you don't keep the old flower stems picked off they will stop blooming, which may work the same way on violets.

H. A. Hunt, Iowa

Starting Leaves

To Aileen Bell, Kansas

I start leaves in Vermiculite or soil mixture, and it has been my experience that if the leaves, or rather the stems are planted too deep, it takes much longer to get livable plants, and sometimes they never come. I suggest not more than one-half inch of the stem be inserted in your mixture. I also find the shorter the stem, the quicker I get little plants.

Mrs. M. L. Morton, Calif.

Curling Leaves

To Miss Winifred Arrington, N. Y.

The usual cause of leaves curling on African violets is too low a temperature -- under 65° at night.

E. C. Volz, Prof. of Horticulture, Iowa State College

Worms in the Soil

To Mrs. Frank Hempker. Ohio

The small white or gray worms in the African violet soil are probably the larvae of the fungus gnat. They are harmless and are usually found in pots containing a high content of organic matter upon which they feed. Sterilizing the soil with heat takes care of the situation at potting time. On growing plants I can only suggest a formula recommended by Illinois Entomologists. They had success in controlling these tiny maggots by watering the soil with a solution made by dissolving 2 tablets (7.3 grains each of corrosive sublimate (mercuric chloride) in a quart of water. Use a small quantity of hot water to dissolve the tablets and then dilute to required strength. Use glass or earthenware container as the corrosive sublimate will corrode metals. It is also claimed that tobacco dust containing at least 1% nicotine is effective when worked into the soil.

E. C. Volz

Sodium Selenate

To Alice Tilton Thorne, Juneau, Alaska

It certainly would be injurious to eat any part of a plant treated with Sodium Selenate as it is a dangerous poison.

E. C. Volz

I know Sodium Selenate is a dangerous poison and while I do not recommend it for anyone else -- try as I will I cannot keep our little cocker Cinderella from eating a stray blossom or broken leaf -- now and then. I was most worried the first time this happened two years ago. My plants are loaded with selenate.

Margaret Travis, Tenn.

Lack of Blossoms

To Mrs. Bruce Fineout, Mich.

If your violets came from a reliable greenhouse or person who grows good stock, and were blooming when you purchased them, it would seem the cause for their not continuing to bloom would be something wrong that you are doing. Possibly too heavy feeding. -- Try your plant in a north window on a stand with no curtain at the window. Water with one-half teaspoon superphosphate in one quart of warm water -- and one-fourth teaspoon of Marvel Plant Food in some water. Water only when leaves limp just a little or the soil is barely damp. The doubles need a lot of feeding to make them bloom.

Helen L. Burchell, Mich.

Small Plants

To Mrs. Hugh C. McInally, Mich.

If your plants are the kind that are supposed to grow large, you can't keep them small. If you set plants back out of the light you won't get any blooms and not very good plants. To have a good plant, large or small, you must have lots of light but not direct sun. A north window is fine, no protection is needed. If you want small plants try Old Lou, Rosette Red, Violet Baby or some of the other dwarf varieties.

Helen L. Burchell, Mich.

When I started raising African violets, I had plenty of room for them, and as they grew larger I kept shifting to larger pots, and the plants kept growing larger, and seemed never to quit blooming. Now I am so crowded I don't have space for so many large pots so leave them in the smaller pots as long as possible. If the soil is good and you feed them well, they should bloom for quite some time in the smaller pots.

If your plants don't get enough light, they will grow spindly and will not bloom. My favorite window is the east one, and my plants get the early morning sun which they like.

Mrs. H. A. Hunt, Iowa

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WHEN IN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS — VISIT OUR VIOLET GREENHOUSES

Signs of The Zodiac 1952

Charlotte Hughes, W. Va.

January,	17-18-19	July,	1-27-28
February,	14-15	August,	23-24
March,	12-13	September,	19-20
April,	8-9	October,	23-24
May,	6-7	November,	13-14
June,	2-3 29-30	December,	10-11

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"FLORAL DISEASE" RAMPANT

Cont. from page 24

Violets need plenty of light but no direct sun he believes. He also thinks that too much water will rot away the roots and that plants should be kept damp but not soggy. A temperature of from 70 to 72 degrees he considers ideal.

Concerning fertilizer -- they say "Don't think you can beat the experts." There are numerous commercial fertilizers especially prepared for African violets, and these should be used exactly by the instructions. A dose of superphosphate will push the blooms, but will do nothing for the foliage. Another "trick of the trade" that the Childs use is the addition of a vitamin B tablet to the water after a plant has been moved to help it recover from the shock.

The Childs go in for cross-pollination too, and the seedlings that result are watched with as much excitement as a six year lad shows over a birthday package.

But seedlings are not the principal method used for increasing the number of plants. The Childs more frequently cut a leaf from a plant and propagate it in vermiculite or rotten sawdust. Tiny plants originate at the base of the leaf in record time and are carefully lifted out and planted. The leaf stays on and continues to grow and to produce new plants.

Mr. and Mrs. Childs enjoy their African violets and their African violet friends as . . . talking African violets and swapping leaves with other sufferers are two of the pleasantest symptoms of this disease.

CONVENTION VISITORS

YOU ARE INVITED TO VISIT OUR GREENHOUSES WHILE IN CHICAGO. WE HAVE THE LARGEST SELECTION OF VIOLETS IN THE CHICAGO AREA, WITH THOUSANDS IN BLOOM AT ALL TIMES. A GOOD SELECTION OF NEW AND OLDER VARIETIES. ALL PLANTS SODIUM SELENATE TREATED AND STATE INSPECTED.

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RICHTER'S GREENHOUSE

607 Hoffman Street **Hammond, Indiana**

INVESTIGATE THE WATER SUPPLY

Ida Stone, Calif.

Are you losing plants without apparent cause? If so you might investigate your water supply!

In California, we have an alkaline soil and our city water comes either from artesian wells or the Colorado River.

Three or four times a year chlorine in its gaseous form is used by our cities to sterilize and purify the water.

Since water from the Colorado River is very alkaline, a residue is left when chlorine is used as a purifying agent. The well waters have different minerals too, and when chlorine is used as a purifying agent another form of salts is found. Plant life suffers because of these salts produced in the water supply.

To test the strength of chlorine present in your city water, use 7 drops of silver nitrate to a glass of water. If chlorine is present it will become cloudy.

Early this past spring, my "Royal Sunset" apparently suffered from "salts burn" from our water. Its leaves were dark and drooping -- similar to a plant that has been touched with frost.

At first I did not know what to do. I thought it was a clean plant free from bugs of any kind. Then I remembered a recent lecture on Camellias I had attended where information on the dangers of salts in soil and water was given. I decided to do some testing of my water supply.

I noticed that the lower part of the pot my plant was growing in was coated with a white gummy substance. I decided that this was produced by salts of some variety that were being deposited in the soil and on the pot as I watered my plants.

Repotting seemed necessary -- as much of the soil as possible was removed and the violet repotted in sterilized soil. Soon it perked up and some of the original color returned to the leaves. Because the injury was of long standing, a number of the damaged leaves had to be removed.

Now I water with rain water, as it is Nature's own and the best for all plants. I also keep a close watch for the white formation as a sign to change the pots and soil in which my African violets are growing.

Roigina

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(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PIGEON EDITOR

Dear Pigeon Members:

I would like to thank you all for the hundreds of greetings that came to me during this holiday season. Being unable to thank you personally, may I thank you all through my column. It is most gratifying to know one's small efforts are appreciated.

Almost a year has rolled around since becoming your Homing Pigeon Editor. I hope you have enjoyed my column as much as I have bringing it to you. A great big thanks to you all for your hints and help. Many of you have sent me hints that have been used before -- so could not be used again. Thanks anyway and keep them coming.

May I share with you some arrangements I have used during the 1951 holiday season? I have had many compliments during the past few days from guests who have admired my dining room table. I have a number of chicken feeders ranging from 18 inches to 42 inches. These are bought painted a dark green. The one I used on my dining room table is 42 inches long. In this were placed 8 Snow Girl plants which had been removed from their pots. In fact, this particular feeder was planted in November for just this purpose. At Christmas time, they were in full bloom. The table was covered with a red burlap cloth. Down the center of the table was placed a foot wide base of cedar boughs. The feeder of white violets was placed on this and small red ball ornaments were tucked here and there among

HELEN POCHUREK

14225 McCracken Rd.,

Cleveland, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

the greenery. At either end a nice, fat, white candle was placed in the cedar. A green cloth with the same feeder and red ornaments would also have been lovely. I have several feeders that I use in this way. One contains pink and blue African violets and another is a mixture of a dozen different varieties. This particular pan was one in which I placed suckers as I removed them from plants, so it contains a variety of color. I have used this feeder on a gray cloth with Philodendron to soften the container.

On an end table, I have a white pottery Madonna in which I have placed several sprays of juniper with it's blue berries and nice curves. At the base, there is a Blue Moon plant that has been in the window and allowed to grow in a fan shape. The pot is almost hidden, tho' wrapped in a blue foil. With this I have used a fat, square, white candle.

And so to the hints—

I found it difficult to regulate the amount of water my tiny plants received. They were usually drowned with water. I melted paraffin in a small watering can and allowed it to run through the spout. This partially closed the spout and gave just the right size stream for my tiny plants.

Dorothy Felgar, Austin, Texas

Use a glass meat baster when you water or fertilize tiny seedlings from the top. You can get the water just where you want it.

John Stebbins, Bangor, Mich.

A new stunt for shipping leaves. Cut leaves 3 hours ahead. Let stand in water to firm up well. Remove and allow to dry off a bit. Dip ends about one-half inch in melted wax that has cooled but not congealed. Wrap in wax paper for shipping.

John Stebbins, Bangor, Mich.

Use very little nitrogen fertilizer on variegated leaf plants. Use very little fertilizer of any kind during the first period of growth. If too much nitrogen is in the soil, the variegation may disappear and the plant will revert to plain green.

Mrs. Paula Hoisington, Dodge City, Kansas

I made a miniature greenhouse that works just fine. I took a fish aquarium, 10 x 18 inches, spread and inch of vermiculite on the bottom and soaked this with very hot water. Using very small pots -- 45 fitted in just fine. I planted a leaf in each pot, supported by a label. Then a thermometer was placed inside and a glass cover on top. I placed a small pillow on the table (what no embroidered sheets? -- your Editor) put my heating pad on pillow and covered all with a cloth. On this went the aquarium. The tempera-

GLADYS CANNER

Creek Rd. Rt. 1,

Herkimer, N. Y.

Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

If you wish to join a group, or if you wish to withdraw from one, please communicate with Mrs. Canner.

ture was set for high and when the thermometer reached 80, the heat was turned down to low. I find it keeps an even temperature and plants will develop in a very short time. This is also a fine way to start seedlings of violets or begonias, discarding the pot idea and planting seed in a good soil mixture.

Thelma Delgardo, Junction City, Kansas

I paint the rims of my pots with clear shellac to prevent petiole rot. I find this works much better than waxing them.

Joe Schultz, Kirkwood, Mo., Unit 24

Joe Schultz also reports on a schedule for growing seeds. A Robin friend plants seed in early winter, so that little space is occupied by the seedlings during the winter. By spring the seedlings are just about large enough to go into small pots. They are then set outside in flats containing either peat or sphagnum moss to hold moisture and humidity. They grow and bloom outside during the summer, where they have a lot of room. Towards fall, they are culled and only the best are brought into the house for further growing. The others make nice gifts to shut-ins and hospitals.

I have a large, round aquarium that travels with me when visiting violet friends. It is filled with sharp, dampened sand and has a glass cover. I place leaves in it that I am sharing with friends along the way. Any new varieties I may receive also go into it. This is fine for cuttings of any kind, not just violets. Cuttings will stay crisp and fresh during hundreds of miles of traveling. I keep mine on the floor, back of the front seat, so that sun will not reach it and make it too hot.

Hazel Lamarr, Cheverly, Maryland

A few hints from your Editor—

Do you take advantage of the lights in your living room? On a table or desk that holds a reading lamp, place some of your African violet plants each night as you turn on the lights. They will reward you with earlier bloom and nice foliage. Place them back in the window during the day. Sure, it's a bother -- but where is the violet grower who cares about that?

When dividing large size plants, I put a layer of sphagnum moss over the soil after re-potting. I sprinkle them well and place under fluorescent light. The water evaporation will keep a constant humidity about the plants. I have transplanted plants that are quite large and with this method have lost very few of the larger leaves.

Have any of you made hanging baskets with Saintpaulias? I have several. I use the regular wire basket that is used for hanging plants and line it with carpet moss, using the green part for the outside. Then, I fill the basket with dampened sphagnum moss. I plant a large plant in the center (I knock off most of the soil) and place smaller plants around the sides to the outside of the basket. They grow like wild in these baskets. I have several hanging in the greenhouse that are very pretty. If they were growing in the house, I would dunk the entire basket in a bucket of warm water, hang it over a sink to drain and then replace where wanted. In the greenhouse, I just spray with the hose.

Plants with 'spooning' leaves require more light than the average plant. Fairy Boats will have a flat leaf in subdued light, while in bright light, it will almost meet in the center.

Oliver Pease, Akron, Ohio

Perlite must be watered very often when it is used as a rooting medium. In fact, it dries out all too quickly and for that reason, has to be watered almost daily. I find that peat moss mixed with it, will help to hold the moisture in. Leaves rooting in Perlite cannot be pulled out of it for a "look see" as with vermiculite. It is much better to use a small spoon as a scoop and lift them out in that way. Just as soon as roots form, I try to get them into a good soil mixture, retaining all the Perlite that hangs to the roots.

Your Editor

"For The Best in Saintpaulias"

NAUGHTY MARIETTA - pink miniature, girl foliage, limited quantity to be available about May 1st.

MANY OTHER INTERESTING VARIETIES

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DOROTHY YOUNG

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LOCAL AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

BENEFITS OF AFFILIATION

African Violet Society of America's Officers and Board of Directors regard, with sincere favor and appreciation, the fine achievements of Local African Violet Societies and Clubs in every part of our great Country. There has been and continues to be an increasing desire upon the part of our membership, generally, for local violet societies and clubs they helped to organize and that they are members of to become affiliated with their very own African Violet Society of America, Inc. In recognition of this growing desire everywhere, and also as a means of helping to establish closer relationship with our members and their local interests, the Board approved the following conditions of Local Chapter Affiliation with African Violet Society of America, Inc. during the Fifth Annual Convention of the Society held in Dayton, Ohio, April 26-28, 1951.

CONDITIONS OF AFFILIATION

Affiliated Chapters may be organized in any town, village, city or county in the United States, Dominion of Canada, or other Country, by not less than five (5) local members of African Violet Society of America, Inc. who desire to unite in a local effort to forward the purposes of the Society and their own local interests in African violets.

Each Affiliated Chapter shall enact its own By-laws, a typed or printed copy of which, must be filed with the African Violet Society of America, Inc. These By-laws shall require that not less than one fourth (¼) of the members of the Affiliated Chapter, including the officers of it, shall also be members of African Violet Society of America, Inc. All Affiliated Chapters shall include among their officers a President, First Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer; but they may determine other officers than these that may be desired. They may make additional qualifications for their local members; they may determine the manner in which their local programs and activities shall be conducted and financed; and they may also determine the dates of their local meetings and events, provided such dates do not conflict and interfere with the activities of African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Any officer of an Affiliated Chapter, preferably the Treasurer, shall file with the Treasurer of African Violet Society of America, Inc., 2694 Lenox Road, N. E., Atlanta 5, Georgia, the names and correct addresses of all of the local members of their respective Chapter, both new and old, together with their membership dues in African Violet Society of America, Inc. As a means of assisting Affiliated Chapter, fifty cents (50¢) of each local member's Individual Membership Dues in African Violet Society of America, Inc. may be retained in the Affiliated Chapter's treasury. The balance, $2.50 shall be forwarded to the Treasurer of African Violet Society as indicated: The sum of one dollar ($1.00) may be retained in the treasury of an Affiliated Chapter from each local member's Commercial, Sustaining and Research membership in the Society; and the balance in each instance shall be sent to the Treasurer of the Society as indicated.

All qualified local African violet societies and clubs now in existence are most cordially invited to become Affiliated Chapters of African Violet Society of America, Inc. The same hearty hand of welcome is extended to every qualified local African violet society or club that will be organized in the future. Dues are $2.50 a year.

Affiliation of any Local Chapter with African Violet Society of America, Inc. may be revoked by the Board of Directors of the Society for just cause.

BENEFITS

The benefits of affiliation are:

1. The Club is entitled to regular membership privileges -- one voting delegate at our Annual Meeting.
2. One magazine will be mailed to the club.
3. The Club's officers will be listed annually in our Member's Handbook.
4. Awards for the Club's African Violet Shows will be available when specifications made by the award committee are complied with.
5. Colored transparencies for program will be available -- Local Club to pay only postage.
6. Books from our library will be available -- Local Club to pay postage.

From the President's Message page 7 of Volume V, Number 1 of this Magazine.

NEW AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

We extend a most cordial welcome to the following newly affiliated chapters:

THOUSAND ISLAND AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB
Mrs. R. B. Hibbard, Pres.,
518 Mary St., Clayton, N. Y:

SACRAMENTO SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY
Mrs. L. C. Jopson, Secty.,
1717 4th Ave., Sacramento, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CHAPTER
2140 Loraine Rd.,
San Marino, Calif.

OUR LADY GENEVA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF HOPKINS MINNESOTA,
Mrs. Daniel Bren,
Pioneer Rd., Hopkins, Minn.

NASHVILLE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB,
Mrs. J. C. Bramford, Pres.,
Woodmont Blvd., Nashville, Tenn.

MUSKOGEE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB,
Mrs. F. H. Moore, Sect'y-Treas.,
1404 Baltimore, Muskogee, Okla.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA,
Miss Ruth Black, Pres.,
2012 Stenton Ave., Philadelphia 38, Penna.

BERGEN COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY,
Mrs. Charles McQuade,
113 Palmer Place, Leonia, N. J.

BORDER CITIES AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB,
6810 Theisen, Dearborn, Mich.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF MUSCLE SHOALS, Alabama Area,
Mrs. D. T. Wilcoxson,
925 Wood Ave., N. Florence, Ala.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY,
Mrs. E. E. Davis, Corr. Secty.,
3810 E. 12th Terrace, Kansas City, Mo.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF BEAUMONT,
Miss Pearl Pres.,
Tyrrell Public Library, Beaumont, Texas

AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF BUTLER MISSOURI,
Mrs. Gleta M. Jewett, Pres.,
211 W. Pine St., Butler, Mo.

LACY GIRLS (AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY),
Mrs. G. King, Sect'y.,
1671 Charles Ave., St. Paul 4, Minn.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY,
Mrs. Harry L. Bogardus, Treas.,
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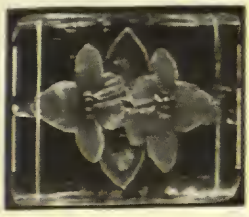
AFRICAN VIOLET PINS



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INTRODUCING EDENA LILY, EDENA JEWEL, LOVELY LADY.
Many new, also older varieties. We feature leaf shipping service.
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Don't take chances with your
African Violets

Tiny insects make leaves curl, plants shrivel and blooms stop. Quick-acting Marvel Spray gives the protection every plant needs.

Don't wait for drooping, curling or dropping leaves, or small white cotton masses, to warn you that your Saintpaulias are insect infested!

Chances are that by the time you discover these minute pests it will be too late. For mealy bugs are less than one-fifth of an inch long. And the devastating cyclemen mite and broad mite are *invisible* to the naked eye! They feed on the lower side of the leaf and frequent the junction of leaf and stalk. But they are easily and quickly controlled by Marvel Spray from famous Ogen Laboratories.

As Marvel Spray is an ovacide, it penetrates the waxy shells of these insidious enemies of the African Violet. It is immediately effective and a great time saver! Yet Marvel Spray, which also is used for Gardenias, Ivy and other indoor plants, is non-poisonous to humans and household pets. Highly concentrated (125 to 1), it is so economical any plant lover can afford this protection.

Get Marvel Spray from your garden or hardware store. If your dealer can't supply you, send $1 for large 4-oz. can—postpaid. Also free new folder "How to Grow African Violets." Write today. Rose Mfg. Co. (Makers of Tri-Ogen—World's Largest-Selling Group of "Rose Grow-ers"). 514-32 Ogen Bldg., Beacon, N. Y.

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S. GROTEI
A fine healthy crop of these attractive plants from the original stock will be ready for shipment April 15. Now taking orders at $2.50 per plant from 2-inch pots. Supply limited. Also have limited number of S. magungensis at same price.
LAKEVIEW GARDENS
Box 20 Fenton, Michigan

POOR MULTIPLE CROWN

Cont. from page 27

There she sits, still blooming her heart out for us! Perhaps each bloom is a tear pleading for her life as we never keep old plants in our collection. They are either replaced with young plants of the same variety or we slice the old plant off at soil level and re-root them in vermiculite, then repot them in 4 inch red clay pots. Usually they continue to bloom thru this re-rooting process. The old plant re-rooted makes a much firmer plant in the pot. It will then live indefinitely without becoming wobbly in the pot, unless attacked with root rot or nematodes. Given the same constant care we give our plantlets, removing all suckers before they become larger than "mouse ears," these old plants grow into perfectly formed plants even lovelier than they were in their younger days.

We do not give our seedlings this exact care, as we grow them to blooming size in 2 inch clay pots, surrounded by moist vermiculite in aluminum biscuit pans or a shelf in our dining room window. We have 56 seedlings on one shelf 50" long in our east window. No! This is not written by a person who boasts a green house as we have two dining room windows -- one north, one east and two small kitchen windows on the north. All have shelves up the entire height of the windows. The highest shelves have an aluminum foil tray fashioned to fit the window shelf. The pots sit on wet sphagnum moss as this lowers the temperature about 10 degrees. This is also a good means of obtaining more humidity. Our violet incubator is in our bath room window. The back and front porches do their part in summer. The over flow plants live through the summer heat of Kansas out side on the north side of the house.

It is truly amazing, the huge quantity of African violets that can be grown in a small home, when all of them are kept single crown. Of course it requires more care to keep them single crown but we could never be proud of a collection of "Topsys," those poor, uncomfortable looking, multiple crown plants when if given care, the right soil formula, a single crown will have far more bloom than any neglected multiple crown plant.

We thought it was about time some one came to the defense of the single crown plant, when so many people are under the false impression that a multiple crown plant will have more bloom for them.

The single crown will also have larger flowers. Many we have are the size of a silver dollar. Most all our plants have blooms the size of a fifty cent piece.

We think something should be done about excluding multiple crown plants at an African violet show, even in a group by themselves. They are not show plants in any sense of the word, just poor old neglected Saintpaulias left to grow the best they can like "Topsy."

SOPHIA BAKER'S QUESTIONS —

Cont. from page 18

A. My method is to sprinkle the seeds as evenly as possible over a moist mixture of peat and vermiculite, 2/3 peat, 1/3 vermiculite. I use a covered glass refrigerator dish until plantlets are about one inch high. Wipe excess moisture from the lid.

Q. If stems get limp, could it be caused from too much fertilizer?

A. Yes, or too much moisture, heat or any diseased condition such as nematodes.

Q. When leaves get limp and rot off, is that crown rot?

A. Not necessarily, but a limp leaf indicates an unhealthy condition. The Saintpaulia may be planted too deeply, the soil may be too heavy, or mineral salts collecting on the rim of the pot also causes leaves to rot off.

Q. If double violets are sterile, how do we get new doubles?

A. All doubles are not sterile. I have used pollen from several doubles with success.

Q. What makes tiny leaves sprout at the base of the leaf instead of from the rooted stem end? They usually die too.

A. An injury may cause it to produce a plant on the leaf. However, Saintpaulias are unpredictable and this is what helps to make them so interesting.

Q. How do all the nurseries get the newer varieties and come out with them at near the same time, such as Lady Geneva?

A. Sometimes the wholesale dealer doesn't release a particular plant until he can supply several nurseries or retailers.

Q. Is Lady Geneva a sport of Blue Boy?

A. I do not know, but the answer would make a good magazine story.

Q. Are Orchid Girl, Red Head Girl and Red Girl the same?

A. To me, they are.

Q. What causes a double African violet to drop buds?

A. They say Doubles require more humidity and more fertilizer. A good way to increase humidity is to place a potted plant in a jardiniere and pour a little hot water in the jardiniere each day. -- Let the steam come up under the foliage.

Q. Do plants with a bad case of mites have to be thrown out?

A. This is a matter of preference. If you have plenty of plants it might be better to throw the badly diseased ones away. Several good articles on mites have been published in the African Violet Magazine and there are more to come.

Q. What causes a plant to just grow tiny leaves and they drop off, causing plant to look something like a pineapple stem?

A. Improper care in general.

Q. What may one use to make plants bloom?

A. 1. Plenty of light without too much sun.
2. Regular feeding.
3. Proper humidity.
4. Adequate watering with warm water.
5. Good light soil and correct temperature.

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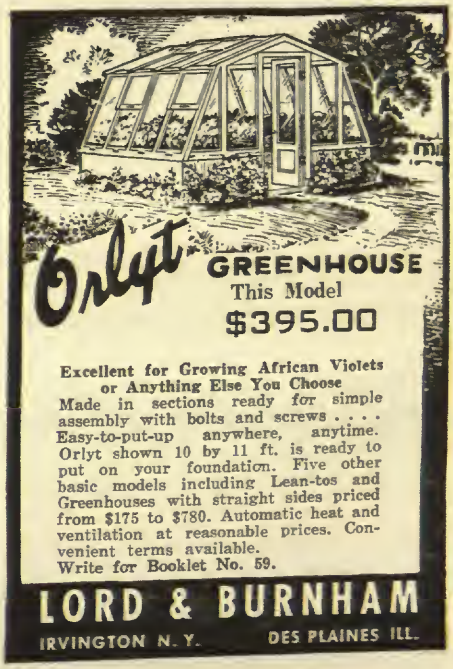

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SUNSET LANE - Originated by Carolyn Rector, and being introduced by us this year. It makes a large plant like Blue Warrior, but the flowers are a uniform light mauve with no shading $1.50

ENCHANTRESS - A distinctive bicolor with girl foliage. The large airy flowers of lightest pink-mauve are marked at the juncture and tips of the two upper petals with deep wine red $1.50

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AUTOMATIC-WATERING PLANT GLASWICKS

4" wicks, 7/32" -A .08c, 7/32" -B .10c, 1/4" .12c, 3/8" .15c each. 7/32" wicks for 4" pots. Write for bulk prices.

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GROWERS, HYBRIDIZERS AND SELECTORS SPECIALIZING IN SAINTPAULIAS AND DOUBLE SEMPERFLOREN HYBRID BEGONIAS

NEWNAN, GA.

WHOLESALE SHIPMENTS ONLY

Dealers write for our 1952 price list.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

AUTOMATIC-IRRIGATION OF POT PLANTS

Cont. from page 14

I have tried out numerous types of Automatic-Irrigators for individual plants, that are on the market and find in most of them that there is no way for evaporation to give the necessary humidity around the plants; in practically all of them there is absolutely too small a reservoir for water and in one the irrigator was so small that it made the pot look so top heavy that the pot and plant have the appearance of being liable to topple over at any time.

I wish you could see my African violets for they shine like silver dollars, not a single distorted, spotted or diseased leaf for there is no splashing water to cause any trouble. I hope to have pictures of them soon.

Photo No. 3 shows a grilled-vat loaded with plants all in luxuriant growth, thus you see you can use this system on practically all of your house plants. Photo No. 4 shows a hanging 12" wire basket filled with Wandering Jew, Airplane Plant, Variegated Vinca and Basket of Gold, each trying to crowd the other over the rim. The basket is equipped with a 1 pound coffee can as an Automatic-Irrigator. Photo No. 5 shows 3 Potho Wilcoxi or Devils Ivy in a 3 pound Crisco can as an irrigator, the longest runner is 84 inches long and still running. One of my next experiments will be to insert the roots of Saintpaulias through the sheet moss liner of a wire basket into the soil the same as you would in a "strawberry jar" and equip the basket with two 3/8" wicks. I will put a specimen plant in the top of the basket.

In my experiments I have used over 40 plants, including 19 different varieties, to find out which plants would take to this system and which would not. I have an article ready for the Begonian Magazine giving the details on each variety as they have shown up for me. That would be too long for this article; possibly later on . . .

I am now starting a new series of experiments: Unded the potting bench we have installed five grilled vats 39" x 42" x 4" on one end of a bench in the greenhouse. Those under the potting bench will be for cutting flats and seed pans and those in the greenhouse will be for pot plants. I will also experiment with wick fed plants and seed and cutting pans under infra-red lights.

A preliminary report on the seed pans: The Geo. J. Ball Seed Co., in their Red Book have a germination table giving the normal time it takes for most seeds to germinate; I will first give their time and follow with my time, Balsam 2-3 weeks, up in 4 days and 145 plants potted 5th and 6th day; Coleus 2-3 weeks, up in 9 days; Begonias 2-3 weeks, up in 1 week; Mimulus 1-2 weeks, up in 4 days. I can furnish proof that these statements are correct.

PLANTING BY THE MOON

Ada Muir, Canada

If we are going to use Moon Signs for best results we must take into consideration the type of plant we are interested in. The African violet is moisture loving and knowing that some signs of the Zodiac are what are termed Water Signs and also knowing by observation that there is greater humidity when the Moon is passing through those signs, we choose these if possible for all growing and developing operations in connection with our African violets.

Then we must consider the phases of the Moon, whether increasing or decreasing in light and try to confine our growing operations to the period between the New and Full Moon. From the Full Moon to the New is a wonderful time for weeding, spraying, taking out dead leaves, etc.

The periods when both Sun and Moon are in Water Signs are of course the best and these are from February 20th to March 20th, from June 21st to July 22nd and from October 23rd to November 21st. So our best dates for the year 1952 only will be after the New Moon and before the Full Moon in those periods.

The Sun-Moon Water dates will be Feb. 25, 26; March 5, 6; June 22, 23; July 2, 3; October 28, 29 and November 17, 24, 25.

Secondary dates during these periods are when the Moon is passing through Earth Signs and these are February 29, March 1, July 7, October 24, 25 and November 1.

It sometimes happens that our plants need attention in order to further their development during other months of the year so the dates of Water Signs and Earth Signs of the Moon are given for best results during these other periods.

Days of Water Signs are: January 10, 11; February 7, 8; April 1, 2, 29, 30; May 8, 26, 27; June 5, 6; July 29, 30, 31; August 26, 27; September 3, 4, 22, 23; October 1, 2, 19, 20; November 24, 25, and December 22, 23, 30.

During these periods when the Moon is in Earth Signs are also good and these are: January 6, 7; February 2, 3; March 28, 29; April 25, July 7; August 3, 4, 30, 31; September 27, 28; October 24, 25; November 20, 21, 28, 29, 30 and December 17, 18, 26, 27.

Some growers prefer the Sign Libra but we must remember that sometimes when the Moon is passing through Libra it will not be the correct phase of the Moon. Periods when the Moon is increasing in light in Sign Libra are: April 9, 10; May 6, 7; June 3, 4; July 27, 28; August 23, 24; September 20, 21 and October 18. Other dates of the Libra Moon but in the dark of the Moon are January 18, 19; February 14, 15; March 12, 13, 14; November 13, 14 and December 11, 12.

Those who are interested in experimenting with colchicine or any other method of culture used in attempting to produce mutation should get best results while the Moon is passing through Libra as Libra is in sympathy with changes in form or color.

J. A. PETERSON SONS

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SODIUM SELENATE IN CAPSULS

A new and thoroughly reliable method for the control of Mite, Mealy Bug, Cyclamen Mite, Red Spider, Aphids and pests that attack African violets. Sodium Selenate is a poisonous material which when absorbed by the plant, kills the insect.

SAFE, RELIABLE. 18 CAPSULS $1.25 post paid.

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June 6th and 7th
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Send for free spring list. Plants, leaves, rooted cuttings and seed.
Begonias and other house plants.
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ATLAS FISH EMULSION FERTILIZER

A liquid -- Feed as you water -- Contains all essential nutrients (22 minerals and trace elements, plus B-Complex vitamins).

A COMPLETE -- BALANCED DIET -- produces healthy plants, vigorous growth, fine texture of foliage, profusion of rich-colored blooms.

1/4 Teaspoon ATLAS per quart water for AFRICAN VIOLETS and other indoor plants OR 1 Tablespoon per gallon water for outdoor plants.

ORDER NOW FOR SPRING PLANTING

TRIAL PINT **$1.00 POSTPAID**

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AFRICAN VIOLET LEAVES
Azure Beauty, Carmen, Pink Delight, Blue Heiress, Rose Marie, Sailor's Delight, Purity, Lacey Girl and Pastel Girl. 5 for $2.00 postpaid; 8 for $3.00 postpaid. Safe Delivery guaranteed.
TRIBBLE'S
FT. PAYNE, ALABAMA

You Don't have to Bake or Steam your Soil

Bee Wills, Ill.

I wonder how many of you find sterilizing your African violet soil a tiresome task? Through a florist friend of mine, I have found a way of dispensing with all the baking and steaming and have had such splendid results with this method I hope you will try it too.

The reason for replacing the soil is to get rid of the pests that infest old soils. Nurserys use steam or give soil a hot water treatment. Now this can be completely done away with -- by using Soilene.

Soilene is a soil insecticide that will effectively control all pests in the soil with so much less dirt, fuss, and bother. I believe it is more effective than steaming soil. It will kill nematodes and other noxious soil insects that give us so much worry.

I use an ounce of Soilene to each bushel of potting soil, also I use one ounce of Electra to the same amount of mixture. I find with these two products that I get heavier stems, larger root systems, and larger and better colored flowers. My soil is very light and porous. When I start my humus pile, I always add well rotted cow manure and layers of sand and some black soil to my oak and hickory leaves; this is a fine light mixture in itself, and to this I add a couple tablespoons of vermiculite to each 3 inch pot.

I also put Soilene in my potting mixture in flats or bowls for starting leaves, using ½ each of sand and vermiculite, and a teaspoonful of Soilene to each quart of dirt.

For insects which attack above the soil I use Detex. I first tried this when a friend came to me to help her get rid of mealy bugs. In sheer desperation we tried the Detex that I had been using for iris borer and it cured every plant. Later I tried it out on cyclamen mites on another friend's collection with like results. Detex is a complete D. D. T. insecticide and is a fast killing spray, and when used according to directions, it will not spot the leaves. I spray regularly once a month with Detex as a preventive measure and my plants are wonderfully clean and shining.

Perhaps your local florist can supply you with these products. I have been so happy in using them and passing on the word to others who have tried them with success also. Should you be unable to procure them, if you will write me I will gladly tell you how they can be ordered from my own florist.

I hope I have helped you, as so many of the other articles in our magazine have helped me.

AFRICAN VIOLETS IN ALASKA

Alice Tilton Thorne

Alaska presents special problems to African violet fans it is true; but no doubt your editor, in requesting articles from this region, realized that many of these same difficulties are shared by those in northern states and Canada as well. For actually the climate in Southeastern Alaska is much more temperate than in many of the States.

Since winter is upon us, with it's long dark nights and many temperature changes, heat, light and ventilation are the main things to be considered.

Many of us have no central heating and live in rural areas where there is either no electricity or the rates make electric heating prohibitive. I have found that a small, portable kerosene heater does the trick for cool corners or for the glassed-in porch. It may be regulated somewhat or moved closer to or farther from the violets for control. And watch the thermometer, of course. Humidity can be added by placing a kettle of water on the heater from time to time.

For those who do have electricity, fluorescent lighting is inexpensive and very effective. A room that will hold several hundred plants, if carefully arranged, can be quite well lighted by a fixture holding two 40-watt, daylight bulbs, if the walls are light and the fixture hung high enough so that the light spreads. Plants will bloom steadily and the leaves will be exceptionally beautiful.

I arrange my plants in tiers, on shelves made of boxes (or camp stools for the lower ones) with boards or plywood set across them. Painted or covered, these shelves can be most attractive. Each shelf, if wide enough will hold 3 tiers of plants, elevating the back and middle tiers on cans of various heights, painted or covered. Or narrow boards can be laid across glass bricks or inverted dime-store refrigerator dishes.

This tiered arrangement is a space-saver and a beautifier. It allows for over-lapping without crowding and the massed and banked effect shows off the plants and blooms to the best advantage while it almost completely hides the shelving. It also allows for easy watering without spilling water on the leaves.

The higher the plants are in the room, the closer they will be to the light. So for continuous bloom one can rotate the plants. As soon as one begins to bud it is put on a low shelf and the lighter, top-shelf spot given to one which needs blooming encouragement. Having all of the blooming plants together on the lower shelves adds to the effectiveness too. And I have found that if all of the doubles are grouped together they show to a much better advantage.

An Aladdin lamp elevated above your plants on a table or plant shelf will give needed light and warmth as well.

For bottom heat for rooting cuttings and nursing baby plants, the kerosene heater used for heating water for chickens, as suggested by Estelle Bentley in the December, 1949 issue of this magazine, certainly bears mentioning again.

If you have a ventilating problem, I would refer you to a method described by Harriet Lawton in the June 1949 issue, as follows: "If fresh air is let in the first thing in the morning, then it is sure to be seen to and is out of the way for the day. A good way is to close the door to the plant room, open a window wide in an adjoining room for about half an hour, and after the window has been closed, open the plant room door so the fresh air can circulate."

Visitors from "outside" tell us that some of our collections in the Territory far surpass those in some of the large cities in the States, in beauty and in numbers as well. African violets mean a great deal to Alaskans and are fast becoming very popular here. They bring gaiety during our long winters when, with a backdrop of sparkling icicles and snow-covered mountains beyond, their frosted blooms match the colors of our northern lights.

SAY IT WITH VIOLETS
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THE VIOLET HOUSE
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Featuring leaf shipping service from all the very newest varieties such as, Yellow Brown Girl, Blue Heiress, Azure Beauty, Sailor's Delight, Purity (pure white double).
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START - RIGHT
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VIOLET - LITE

Newly discovered non-packing aerating white mineral. Four quart bag, directions inside, 50c post paid.

REGISTRATION REPORT . . . .

Neil C. Miller

PART I

The following applications have been received during the period October 5, 1951 to December 31, 1951. No objections to registration are apparent to the Committee.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

Glitter 10-5-51
Mrs. Louella Pound
Smithburg, Maryland
"It grows upright and large. The leaves are flecked over with yellow and the veins are flushed wine, glossy, and it is a lovely shaped plant. The flowers are a beautiful blue and the splashes of silver on three lower petals make it very attractive."

Pink Cheer 11-1-51
John R. Gent
595 Vosburg Road
Webster, New York
"A deep rose-pink sport of Fantasy, having the same growing and blooming habits. (It comes true to color)"

Royal Ripples 11-4-51
Mrs. Sophia Baker
2733 S.E. 35th Place
Portland 2, Oregon
"A sport of Blue Boy that resembles the Fringettes. Leaves are dark green with light veins, dark red back. Blossoms are purple, some have white edges, quite fringed."

White duPont 11-14-51
Oliver H. Pease
1913 Tonawanda Avenue
Akron 5, Ohio
"A duPont" produced by colchicine treatment of White Lady. Has general characteristics of White Lady Supreme in that the leaves are light green, serrated and very brittle; the blossoms, however, are somewhat "sweet pea" shaped and have tendency to be fringed."

Princess Elizabeth 11-30-51
Mrs. Arthur A. Pyle
Russell, Iowa
"Raised from seed purchased from Ralph Dietrick, Des Moines, Ia. Perhaps about one dozen plants from this package reached maturity, of which about five were worth saving. Princess Elizabeth is easy to propagate, flowers large, a reddish purple, leaves and coloring outstanding. Some leaves cupping or spooning as the plant ages. Scallops and ruffling more pronounced on some plants than others. Prolific bloomer, grows rapidly. A leaf cutting sends up several plants."

Lady Loreta 12-5-51
Mrs. Olga Rolf Tiemann
Westboro, Mo.
"This plant was the only one grown to maturity from an entire packet of mixed seeds. It is similar to Blue Girl in leaf and flower but a better grower and bloomer. The satiny leaves with striking white area at base are very curly and so full at base they overlap where petiole joins leaf. The edges are crenate which adds to their beauty. The large blossoms are cleanly cut, with good substance to the petals — a satiny, rich, deep blue with slightly darker area in center."

PART II

Communications have been received concerning six of the plants published in Part II of the December 1951 Report as being under "Committee Protest."

The following plants are stated to have been vegetatively propagated at least twice prior to application:

Orchid Wing
Red Rave
Red Wing

The "Protest" is thus removed and these three plants can be considered as having been published in Part I of the Report.

Paradise has not been sufficiently propagated to be registerable, so publication of it reverts to Name Reservation only.

The originator has supplied description of the following two plants, as follows:

Oros Crimson: "The flower on this variety somewhat resembles the flower of the Red Head but is a darker red, much larger, and the flower is flatter and more opened. The leaves are a very dark green and glossy."

Oros Candida: "This variety is a purer white than any other white violet I have ever seen. The leaves of this variety are a darker green than on the other white varieties. The flower resembles the White Lady bloom in shape but is at least twice as large."

These descriptions should be accepted rather than the ones published in the December Report.

NAME RESERVATIONS

PART III

The following name reservations have been made during this period.

Blondie Girl
Blue Shadows
Bright Morning
Buffalo Gal
Cody Girl
Crested Girl
Crimson Glory
Curly Collar
Curly Cue
Dorbi
Double Crystal Queen
Elfin Girls*
Fairy Boats
Fanfare
Fascination
Foothills
Hawaiian Sunset
Holly
Holly Leafed Girl
Hug-Me-Tight
Indian Princess
Jo'es Girls*
Judy Madsen
Lady Chamelon
Lady Eleanor
Lady Esther
Lady Firebird
Lavender and Old Lace
Lilac Girl
Little Dove
Longfellow
Lyleann
Miss Nebraska
Orchid Girl Spooned
Orchid Island
Pink Cheer
Purple Flame
Purple Missouri Girl
Queen Ann
Queen Esther*

Red Missouri Girl	Silver Lining
Red Mosaic	Spooned Beauty
Red Star	Sunset
Resurrection	Tecumseh Beauty
Rolling Hills	Tiny Doll
Rosa Mae	Tiny Lady
Satinette	White Caps
Shalimar	

Note: *designates reservation made for series name.

PART IV

PROTESTS AND CORRECTIONS

Numerous communications were received pointing out the error in registration of Oriental Girl. All parties concerned agree that the registration should be:

Oriental Girl 1-9-51
Mrs. Grace Gammell
2415 Des Moines Street
Des Moines 17, Iowa

The error occurred because incorrect information was placed on the application card, which was submitted by a third party without having been checked by either Mrs. Kellar or Mrs. Gammell.

PART V

REGISTRATIONS BECOME PERMANENT

All protests on Applications for Registration published in the June 1951 issue have been resolved, and the protest period has now ended, so all plants published in Part I of that report are now permanently registered.

GUMMED LABELS WITH NAME AND ADDRESS—

Assorted colors on black and white.
300 in plastic box $1.00. 1,000 in paper box $2.00.

BILLY NEWBERRY
Mechanicsburg, Virginia

ECONOMY PLUS QUALITY

THAT'S FRENTZENS' SUPERIOR ROOTED CUTTINGS

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NUTRITION OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET*

Jesse M. Rawson
Department of Soil Science
Michigan State College
East Lansing, Michigan
1948

INTRODUCTION

In the last fifty years much emphasis has been placed upon the study of nutrition. Human nutrition, animal nutrition, and farm and garden crop nutrition have been investigated in much detail and much has been learned about each phase and about the relationship of each phase to the others.

Somewhat more recently studies of the nutritional requirements of ornamental plants have been undertaken in an attempt to produce better greenhouse flowers and to learn the deficiency and toxicity symptoms of the major nutrient elements as manifested in ornamental crops. To mention a few, Fuhr has reported on **Begonia semperflorens** (7), Jackson studied **Pelargonium hortorum** (16), and Gartner has studied both **Cineraria stellata** (9) and **Primula obconica** (8).

To obtain data on another house and greenhouse plant which has attained great popularity within the last decade Professor C. E. Wildon suggested that this study be undertaken using the **Saintpaulia** or African violet.

THE NATIVE ENVIRONMENT

In 1893 Ulrich Saint Paul-Illaire of Fishbach in Silesia, the president of the Dendrological Society of Germany, wrote to the publisher of **Curtis Magazine:** "The **Saintpaulia** was discovered by my son who lives in East Africa where he owns plantations of vanilla and India-rubber trees. It was found in two localities; one about an hour from Tanga, in wooded places, in the fissures of limestone rocks, as well as in rich soil with plenty of vegetable matter. This place is not more than fifty to one hundred and fifty feet above sea level. The second place is in the primeval forests of the Usambaras, likewise in shady locations, but on granite rocks, two thousand five hundred feet above the sea. It is much more plentiful in the former place. Several varieties have been discovered that differ slightly in color of the flowers but all are blue." (26)

*An investigation undertaken by Mr. Jesse Rawson is herewith published to make known some interesting information concerning Saintpaulias.

Evan Roberts, Research Editor,
AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

The native habitat of a plant often provided important clues to its proper culture and this letter has indicated a number of practices which are of considerable value in the culture of the African violet. For example, shade or at least protection from the direct rays of the sun is essential for the continued well-being of this plant especially during the summer. Furthermore, it has been found that the minimum temperature for both growth and flowering is 60 degrees F. and the optimum temperature is in the range of 70 to 75 degrees F. It will endure temperatures considerably higher than this as it is a native of the tropics.

In regard to nutrition, however, the letter gives two types of substrate which from the rather meager details given seem to be diametrically opposed in several respects. If the type of media is interpreted literally the first group of plants, which were growing in "fissures of limestone rocks, as well as in rich soil with plenty of vegetable matter," were supplied satisfactorily with nitrates and phosphorus from the organic matter and with calcium and perhaps magnesium from the limestone rocks ($CaCO_3$ or $CaMg(CO_3)_2$). Other nutrients perhaps present in the "rich soil" are unknown. The pH was undoubtedly high due to the calcium. The second group of plants were found on "granite rocks" which might indicate the presence of a number of nutrients depending upon the type of granite Orthoclas ($KAlSi_3O_8$), albite ($NaAlSi_3O_8$), anorthite ($CaAl_2(SiO_4)_2$), or the micas, muscovite ($KH_2Al_3(SiO_4)_3$) and biotite ($(KH)_2(MgFe)_2Al_2(SiO_4)_3$) are some of the possible minerals included in granite rocks. As can be seen, potassium is the predominant nutri-

ent element with possibly some sodium, calcium, magnesium and iron also present. Again organic matter in the forest would provide nitrates and phosphorus. The pH of granitic rocks tends to be acidic to some degree.

This poses the question as to the adaptability of the Saintpaulia to various nutrient conditions assuming that the geological observations were correct. It is to be regretted that Saint Paul did not study the plants critically in each environment to learn if they were better adapted to the one habitat or the other.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The confusion concerning the proper nutrition of the African violet has persisted to the present time and there exists a number of opinions which are for the most part either conflicting or too general to be of much value.

An item in the Gardener's Chronicle of London (2) written in 1925 states, "this plant will grow in practically any soil that is sweet and well drained."

Mildred Andrews (1) writes, "Saintpaulias bloom prolifically if kept in small pots where roots are crowded, however they should be given ample diet in mellow, well-proportioned potting soil. Superfluous nitrogen, from concentrated nourishment or too much root room, encourages leaf growth and offsets, with few or no flower buds. -- Even when the plants are budding their leaves may become somewhat yellowed. This might be from overwatering, or the use of water not of room temperature, or result from lack of nourishment."

Helen C. Hill (10) recommends a rich, sandy loam and states that ordinarily the plant will need no fertilizing. Also that the plant should be just moist "which means neither too wet nor too dry."

Elinor Block (3) in Better Homes and Gardens writes concerning small plants, "don't insist on feeding these tiny guests, since they find plenty of nourishment in the leafmold in which they're grown." When it becomes necessary to shift the plants she recommends that "one-third well decomposed leafmold, one-third peat and one-third sand" be used for potting.

Mrs. Alfred Iddles (15) uses a potting soil consisting of "two parts loam, one part sand, one part leafmold."

Mrs. Silas B. Waters (25) states that "a friable soil made of equal parts of good loam, granular humus or leafmold, sand and some very old manure is an ideal planting medium."

Anna S. Howland (12) pots young plants "in a loose soil composed largely of leafmold and sand."

C. J. Hudson Jr. (14) writes that J. W. Good, a commercial grower from Springfield, Ohio suggests "a mixture of two-thirds clay loam, and one-third peat moss plus a small amount of sand and a little fertilizer as an excellent potting mixture for these plants."

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Jessie Crawford (6) prefers to use one-third leafmold or peat, one-third cow manure and one-third sand.

Albert C. Nichols (20) uses a heavy clay soil which he conditions with sand, peat moss and well rotted cow manure "then add a generous double handful of bone meal to a bushel of soil."

Oliver Bowles (4) advocates a mixture consisting of "five-twelfths leafmold from a compost heap, four-twelfths good garden soil, two-twelfths sand and one-twelfth dried cow manure."

Sister Mary Juliana (17) adds "a handful of bone meal and a tablespoonful of ground limestone in each box of organic compost (her boxes are 24" x 8" x 8")."

Helen Loeffler (19) uses half soil and half Oak leaf mold and then adds a cupful of bone meal to each ten quart pailful. After screening she adds three quarts of builders' sand.

Mrs. Z. C. Layson (18) uses "three parts clayey loam from an old fence row, two parts sifted humus from a well rotted straw stack spiked with equally well rotted cattle droppings, one part of sharp sand and a four inch pot of 18% superphosphate to a bushel of mixture. This soil tests neutral to slightly acid. . . . After young plants start to bloom, I feed about every two months with a solution of any standard commercial fertilizer at one-half the prescribed strengh."

Most of the authors quoted thus far are amateurs writing for various home and garden magazines, and to date, most of the interest and much of the writing has been from this source. The four quotations which follow are perhaps the most authoritative references found and it is of interest to note in each case how the authors carefully avoid dogmatic statements.

C. J. Hudson, Jr. (13) reviews the recommended soils as follows: "The generally accepted combination is a mixture of equal parts good garden soil, leafmold and sand. The sand is necessary for proper drainage and is sometimes used in proportions up to as much as one-half of the mixture, especially when a heavy soil base is used. If leafmold is not available, peat moss may be used instead. Some use well rotted cow manure for this part of the mixture."

"It is interesting to note however, that there are many other recommended mixtures. Some growers even use pure well rotted manure with about one-fourth sand and have excellent results. Others use about one-half manure and the balance soil and sand. One well known Atlanta grower has grown some excellent specimens in water solutions."

Helen Van Pelt Wilson (26) does not recommend any particular soil but gives a "soil formula" preferred by Mrs. Ferne Kellar as follows:

"3 parts good black soil (gumbo)
1 part peat
1 part compost (about half manure)
1 part rotted manure

2 parts sand

She adds to each bushel of this soil mixture:

1 six-inch potful of superphosphate

1 gallon of wood ashes containing bits of burnt wood or charcoal."

Evan Roberts (22) states that "often the difference between a good and a better plant is a matter of supplying fertilizer to the plant. Any complete plant food may be used if it is applied in weak doses. A level teaspoonful of a complete commercial fertilizer dissolved in a gallon of lukewarm water may be poured on the soil."

W. D. Holley (11) sums up the situation as follows, "whether you succeed or fail with African violets will not be determined by your feeding practices, but the degree of your success most certainly will be. The difference between good and excellent plants in these experiments was merely a matter of regular feeding at two to three week intervals with a good plant food. Plants fed regularly responded with more and larger flowers as well as with healthier foliage. Any complete plant food used in weak doses and at regular intervals is satisfactory."

It appears that the African violet thrives on many types of potting composts provided the other environmental factors are good to optimum for the plant. The important factors to consider are temperature, light, moisture, and perhaps pH of the soil. On each of these points a number of divergent opinions have been expressed.

As the **Saintpaulia** is a native of the tropical rain-forest it is reasonable to believe that the optimum temperature is rather high.

C. J. Hudson, Jr. (13) states that "the ideal temperature range is 60 to 75 degrees F., the lower temperature being the night temperature."

Evan Roberts (22) writes that "temperatures below 60 degrees F. retard growth. In the mountains of the native jungles the average temperature is from 70 to 80 degrees."

W. D. Holley (11) correlates temperature with light as follows, "this plant, like any other flowering plant, cannot live long in a poor light and a temperature of 70 degrees F. or above. But with good sunlight the African violet may be successful even if the night temperature is up to 75 degrees. Temperatures below 60 degrees F. slow up growth and development considerably."

Light is a very important factor in the flowering of **Saintpaulia** and receives comment in almost every article written. Most of the amateur controversy is limited to whether the plants do best in a north, south, east or west window.

Roberts (22) says, "that the optimum light intensity is about 500 foot candles two hours before and after noon," and he suggests the use of a light meter to determine the correct intensity.

Hudson (13) claims that "marginal burnings and leaf and flower malformations result from too much exposure to strong sun, especially during the summer months."

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Holley (11) writes, "too much sun (in summer) causes the foliage to become lighter in color, so moving the plant to a north or northeast window is a good practice." And also, "African violets need some sunshine if they are to flower their best in winter. You have a very slim chance of success if your plant is not near a sunny window or directly in a north window. -- In summer, they flower well in indirect light, and when the sun is hot in spring or fall they benefit from the shade of a light drapery. Plants in north windows during the winter tend to flower periodically, while those grown in sunny windows flower continuously, provided other conditions are favorable."

According to Kenneth Post (21) of Cornell University "flowering is not related to temperature or to day length but has been found to be affected by light intensity. The foliage becomes light green in color when the light intensity is high or the temperature is low, or when the nitrogen supply is reduced. This is generally accompanied by good flowering. While the foliage is a darker green and the plants are more vigorous at a low light intensity, flowering is less profuse. The most likely reason for poor flowering in the home is a low light intensity. More shading is required in the spring as the light intensity increases. It should also be removed gradually as the light becomes less intense with the approach of winter."

Less work has been reported on the possible effect of soil pH but several of the authorities quoted above have also expressed opinions on this phase. For example, Roberts (22) states that the "soil should have a pH of around 6.0."

Hudson (14) reports that at the National Saintpaulia Show in Atlanta in the fall of 1947, W. D. Holley discussed the results of growing Saintpaulias in acid and alkaline soils and stated that"acid conditions seemed to produce better leaf and flower colors even though the African violet grows in limestone regions in its natural state."

Helen Van Pelt Wilson (26) also mentions the effect of soil acidity on leaf and flower color. She notes that "acidity brings out redness in leaves and deepens the blueness of blossoms." She also quotes Ferne Kellar's experience in Des Moines who claims that she cannot grow African violets in acid soil but must have a soil testing around pH 7.0.

At this time several points should be made. First, much of the published work has been done by amateurs who usually observe a small number of plants. This does not include Helen Van Pelt Wilson, W. D. Holley, Evan Roberts, C. J. Hudson Jr. and Kenneth Post who have all written recent books and articles which are quite authoritative. Second, the Saintpaulia will apparently do quite well as a house plant under a variety of conditions provided these are kept within certain limits. Third, it is not a difficult plant to grow once the fundamentals of its culture are

known. Its universal popularity and appeal attest the challenge it offers to millions to learn its requirements.

In summing up and evaluating the environmental factors which have been recorded to date a number of statements can be made.

1. The optimum temperature should be between 65 and 75 degrees F., with a minimum around 60 degrees F. and a maximum undetermined. However, they do well in the greenhouse where summer temperatures are often over 90 degrees.

2. Light intensity is important but day length (photoperiod) has little or no effect. In the winter when the sun is far to the south and the angle of incidence of the sun's rays is large they require as much light as possible. But they must be shaded from the direct rays of the sun in summer or severe burning will result. The effect of artificial light to compensate for the many cloudy days of a Michigan winter has not been studied to the author's knowledge.

3. The consensus of opinion seems to favor subirrigation of the plants whenever the top of the soil in the pot begins to dry out. Holding the soil constantly moist has grown good plants in the Michigan State College greenhouse but Hudson (13) claims that plants grown in this manner will suffer damage in a year or so. He thinks that it is due to a toxic condition built up in the soil and also a greater susceptibility to crown rot.

4. The soil pH for African violets should fall between 6.0 and 7.0 with the majority of growers favoring the lower half of this range. In a test conducted in the greenhouse three plants at 7.5 pH (by the addition of $CaCO_3$) bloomed well but the leaves were lighter in color and there were fewer blossoms per plant than on three plants held at pH 6.5.

5. After surveying the literature the nutrient requirements of **Saintpaulia** were little clearer than before. As noted above, many opinions were expressed but most were in terms of soils, manures, composts, etc. which are so variable that few conclusions could be drawn. The main conclusion based on the articles read would have to be that the plant is adaptable and will grow well in almost any potting compost ordinarily used for greenhouse pot plants.

The plants used were **Saintpaulia ionantha,** variety **Blue Boy** and were obtained through the courtesy of Mr. Ed Wangbickler of the West Side Greenhouse in Inkster. After receipt they were carried without additional feeding until they were yellowed and had presumably utilized most of the available nutrients in the pots.

The soil used was Coloma sand and was obtained through the courtesy of Dr. Ray Cook of the Soils Department. This soil was selected because it was low in nutrients and organic matter and would have a minimum effect upon the nutrients added. As noted later this presumption was discovered to be somewhat in-

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accurate. The original soil was tested in the testing laboratory of the Soils Department and was found to contain 2 pounds of available phosphorus per acre (0.25 ppm.), 49 pounds of potash per acre (approximately 5 ppm.) and to have a reaction of ph 6.0. Nitrogen was tested with the Simplex Soil Test Outfit and found to be 5 ppm. All further soil tests were made with the Simplex Soil Test Outfit as developed by Dr. C. H. Spurway (24).

Four-inch pots were decided upon as a satisfactory size for small **Saintpaulias** and proved to be ideal as the plants never required shifting. The pots were painted on the inside with asphalt paint to aid in the moisture control and to prevent the absorption of nutrients by the pots. The original intention was to seal the pots and control the watering by periodically bringing them up to a standard weight. However, it was felt that this might not be feasible in four-inch pots so subirrigation by means of saucers was substituted as a means of supplying water.

It was found that a four inch pot held 700 grams of the soil and still left approximately one-half inch of space at the top so all calculations were based on this figure.

The only elements studied in this experiment were the three major nutrient elements -- nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium -- although other anions and cations were added. This might well be one source of error as no account was made or attempted of these other elements. The nutrient carriers used were as follows:

Sodium nitrate ($NaNO_3$) for nitrates, anhydrous monocalcium phosphate ($CaH_4(PO_4)_2$) for phosphorus and potassium sulphate (K_2SO_4) for potash.

The molecular weight of $NaNO_3$ is 85 and the weight of the nitrate radical (NO_3 is tested for in the Simplex method instead of nitrogen as this is thought to be the major form in which plants use nitrogen). Dividing 85 by 62 gives a constant value of 1.37 as a conversion factor from NO_3 to $NaNO_3$. Similarly the conversion factor from P to $CaH_4(PO_4)_2$ is 7.8 and from K to K_2SO_4 is 4.46.

By setting up a proportion as follows:

$$40 : 1{,}000{,}000 : x : 700$$
$$1{,}000{,}000x = 28{,}000$$
$$x = 0.028 \text{ grams}$$

It was determined that theoretically 0.028 grams of NO_3 was needed in 700 grams of soil to furnish 40 ppm. Then by multiplying 0.028 grams by the conversion factor 1.37 we get 0.03836 grams of $NaNO_3$ needed. Stock solutions were made up on this basis using 3.8 grams $NaNO_3$ per liter to provide 40 ppm of NO_3 in 10 ml. of the solution as outlined in detail by Jackson (16). In a similar manner five other solutions were made up to carry 300 ppm. NO_3, 10 ppm P, 100 ppm. P, 20 ppm. K and 200 ppm. K. These were sufficient to cover all proposed treatments which ranged as follows:

Treatment No.	ppm. NO_3	ppm. P	ppm. K
1	Check no additions to Isabella sand		
2	0	10	20
3	20	10	20
4	40	10	20
5	60	10	20
6	100	10	20
7	200	10	20
8	300	10	20
9	40	0	20
10	40	2.5	20
11	40	5	20
12	40	20	20
13	40	50	20
14	40	100	20
15	40	10	0
16	40	10	10
17	40	10	30
18	40	10	50
19	40	10	100
20	40	10	200

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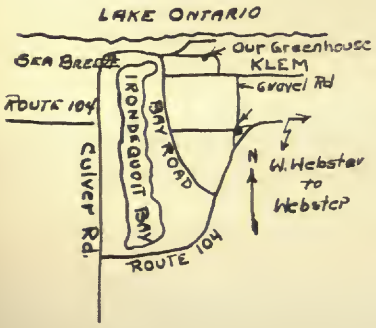

Orders will be filled in the order received. Send check or money order only. Price $2.50 postpaid.

See an accurate reproduction of PINK CHEER before you invest in a pink African violet. Send 15c for a Kodachrome transparency

JOHN R. GENT

595 VOSBURG ROAD, WEBSTER, N. Y.

2 MILES BEYOND SEA BREEZE

The injury was characterized by plasmolysis and browning of the leaf petioles near the crown and in most cases by the apparent death of the crown bud.

On December 3 the following sixteen were removed and new plants were placed in the same soil and pots:

	3B	3C
	4B	4C
	5B	5C
	6B	6C
7A	7B	7C
8A	8B	8C
	9B	9C

This indicated the extreme sensitivity of the roots to the $NaNO_3$ except in the A series where gradual addition and several mixings had reduced the toxic effect.

Within 24 hours the entire 7 and 8 treatment groups again showed definite discoloration of the bases of the petioles and by December 20 the following plants were dead:

	4B	
	5B	
7A	7B	7C
8A	8B	8C

By January 10 the following plants had died:

	5C	
6B	6C	

APPROVED BY AUTHORITIES Available at your Favorite Seed, Hardware, Florist or Variety Store.

"AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE SPECIAL"

20-oz size 15-30-15 All Soluble Liquid Fertilizer Regular $1.25 (for feeding African Violets and other house plants). Kapsulate (30 capsules) Regular $1.25 value **ALL for TWO DOLLARS**

OR

"New Combination Boxes consisting of 30 Kapsulates (Capsules) and 2½ ounces of PLANT-L-IZER (High Soluble Fertilizer for Liquid Feeding). Used to sell for $2.00 now only **ONE DOLLAR."**

KELLY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS CO.

DEPARTMENT AV. **McKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA**

Three pots were established at each nutrient level and these were identified by the letters A, B and C, so each pot carried a treatment number and a letter.

Although the soil used was very sandy it had a considerable fixing capacity for the nutrients added and four or five additions had to be made before the desired test values were obtained. Consequently the amount of sodium nitrate added was six times the calculated amount, eight times as much $CaH_4(PO_4)_2$ was added as figured and eight times as much K_2SO_4. In order to reduce the amount of testing necessary all additions except the first and the last were made to the A series of pots only. That is, after the first addition and consequent testing of all 60 pots the next four additions and tests were made to the A series of pots only and the soil was removed from the pots and mixed thoroughly on an oilcloth after each addition and before each test. Then when the soil test reached the desired level in the A pots the total amount of nutrients required to give the proper test was added to pot series B and C and was mixed in thoroughly. This explanation has been given because of the great difference in effect upon the plants as will be noted later.

After the soil nutrient levels had been established the plants were potted over a three or four day period. The roots were washed clean of soil and plants were transplanted bare rooted. Single crown plants as uniform as possible were used.

Because high levels of nutrients were used and because the plants were transplanted bare rooted into rather concentrated solutions, at least in some cases, injury was expected. Within 48 hours after potting ten plants were apparently dead and six were more or less severely injured.

STIMUPLANT AFRICAN VIOLET FOOD

STIM-U-PLANT FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS is a sensational new food, developed and formulated after several years of research. Used by commercial growers with glowing results. Feed it to your African Violets to promote beautiful growth and blooms.

Packaged in very attractive 3-ounce can. So simple to use! Each can contains enough plant food to make approximately 60 quarts of rich liquid African Violet food. Being soluble, its results are noticed quickly. Two 3-ounce cans $1.00 post paid. Order today.

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VERMICULITE — for rooting leaves	1 pk. bag $1.00
PEAT MOSS — improves soil texture	1 pk. bag $1.00
HUMUS — rich and black	3 lb. $1.00
BONE MEAL — nature's phosphorus	3 lb. $1.00
GROUND LIMESTONE — to sweeten soil	3 lb. $1.00
DRIED BLOOD — nature's nitrogen	2 lb. $1.00

"SQUATTY CLAY POTS"
Rims Treated With Paraffin
4 inch size — $2.50 per doz.

ORGANIC FLOWER FARM

BOX 231 SHARON, PA.

By January 31 the plants in the high potash range had died as follows:

19A 19C

20B 20C

By March 23 these plants were dead:

10A 10B

Of the other plants repotted on December 3; 3B and 3C showed little or no injury, 4C lived but was very poor, and 9B and 9C lived and became fair plants.

There was little doubt that washing all of the old soil from the roots caused some injury as many of the plants lost leaves and remained flaccid for some time. Also transplanting into soil containing soluble salts in varying concentrations must have caused injury. Perhaps an established plant would be able to withstand 50 or 60 ppm. of nitrates but it appeared to be harmful in the potting soil, especially when the phosphorus was fairly low.

To be continued in the June African Violet Magazine.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

LIMITED STOCK OF FAIRY BOATS, BUFFALO GAL, PINK DUPONT, WHITE DUPONT, MANY OTHER NEW VARIETIES
SEND STAMP FOR LIST

CREATE YOUR OWN MUTATIONS WITH EASY TO USE COLCHICINE. BOTH SALVE AND LIQUID. FULL DIRECTIONS. $2.00 POSTPAID.

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VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

SPRINGTAILS

Springtails are the tiny greyish-white fast moving insects that crawl over and jump around on the soil, on the bottoms and sides of the pots, in the watering trays or saucers, or they may be seen floating around on the surface of the water you have just used for watering your plants. Of course, it goes without saying that the springtails are not in the water, but live in the soil in which your African violet is growing. They apparently feed on the decaying material and the humus present in the soil, and do no damage that is known, except to deflate the grower's pride.

There is no need for alarm. Springtails may be controlled:

1. By watering with a mild solution of N. N. O. R. used at the rate of ¼ teaspoonful to the quart of warm water. Pour on the top of the soil and let it drain through. Pour off the residue.

2. Clorox water may also be used -- a teaspoonful to the pint of warm water. Pour through the soil and pour off the residue from the saucer or the jardinier.

3. A mild solution of Optox may be used, if you prefer. It is a dependable insecticide and is used at the rate of 1 ounce to 3 gallons of warm water.

4. A light application of Endopest, Destroy or any of the dust sprays that contain D. D. T. may be successfully used. Dust the soil under the leaves, dust the pot, the saucers, the sand or gravel the plants are standing on. The springtails should soon disappear.

So far as is known, springtails do not attack the foliage of Saintpaulias and are generally not harmful, if not too numerous.

"FRIENDSHIP"

Friendship is a precious thing-
There is no doubt about it,
If e'er you ponder if 'tis true,
Just try and live without it.
A priceless gift, more than great wealth,
No money ere can buy it
Nor pay for it - when once it's gone
If you can doubt, just try it.
A friend is there, in time of need;
In sickness, and in sorrow;
And when they kindly clasp your hand
It's strength for each to-morrow.
So, let's join hands and all rejoice,
That we have something God giv'n,
A Gift that cannot be replaced
Upon this side of heaven.

Agnes J. Bott

Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd. St.
Perry, Iowa.

TECUMSEH NEBRASKA

At the November meeting of the Tecumseh African Violet Society the following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Pearl Kent
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Gertrude Kelley
Secretary,	Mrs. Dorothy Hertzel
Treasurer,	Mrs. Lola Taylor

In December a covered dish Christmas dinner was held at the home of Mrs. Mildred Broady, retiring president.

TORONTO CANADA SOCIETY

The African Violet Society of Toronto, Canada, was formed the last of November with a membership of ten, all members of the National Society. Meetings are held in the members' homes on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p. m.

The following officers were elected for one year:

President,	Mrs. D. A. Marshall
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. H. Wilson
Treasurer,	Mrs. V. C. Roche
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. F. L. Addison
Membership Secy.,	Mrs. W. N. Yielding

DETROIT MICHIGAN CLUB

The Detroit African Violet Club was organized on August 15, 1951, and now has a membership of six who also belong to the National Society. Meetings are held in the members' homes on the second Wednesday of the month at noon. The by-laws were agreed upon and passed and the membership limited to ten members. Officers elected for one year are:

President,	Dorothy Reaume
Vice-Pres.,	Ida Aboud
Secretary,	Caroline Biel
Treasurer,	Olive Foster

TRENTON CLUB

The African Violet Club of Trenton, New Jersey held their election of officers in December. The following officers were elected for 1952:

President,	Edgar Harris
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Walter Minschwaner
Treasurer,	Mrs. William Ruddick
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Thomas Everist
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Charles Hyer

OMAHA TEA

The Omaha African Violet Club members held their fifth annual Birthday Tea on Thursday, December 13, 1951 at 1 o'clock in the Print Room of Joslyn Art Museum. A short business meeting was held and an exchange of leaves among the members and guests from Hastings and Tecumseh, Nebraska, also Sioux City, Iowa. Preceeding the tea,Mrs. J. W. Hoffman installed officers for the ensuing year as follows:

President,	Mrs. Howard Martin (re-elected)
Vice Pres.,	Mrs. T. E. Davis (re-elected)
Secretary,	Mrs. John Smith
Treasurer,	Mrs. H. B. Gipson
Corres. Sec'y.,	Mrs. Geo. Holmes

For five consecutive Thursdays of November the members and guests participated in an African Violet Tour among the membership and a special tour chartered by Greyhound into Des Moines, Perry and Council Bluffs.

The Fifth Midwest Annual African Violet Exhibit will be held in Omaha, Nebraska at Joslyn Art Museum in the Floral Court on Saturday March 29th, 1952 from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. and on Sunday March 30th, 1952 from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m., being sponsored by the membership of the Omaha African Violet Club. The public is cordially invited to attend.

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The Elite African Violet Club of Chicago, Illinois, held their Christmas meeting at the home of Mrs. Lane Cooper with a gift exchange among the members.

Mrs. E. G. Magill of Aurora, Illinois, was the guest speaker.

Each member donated one or more plants to be given to the ladies of the Augustana Home for the Aged.

Mrs. Henry Hilty and Mrs. Rose Trendler were the hostesses for the day.

MANHATTAN KANSAS

On October 16, 1951, the Manhattan, Kansas, African Violet Society was formed with fourteen members present.

The following officers were elected:

President,	John Coryell
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. R. R. Bennett
Secy-Treas.,	Mrs. Louis Ellsworth

It was decided that the first few meetings would be devoted to round-table discussions and question and answer periods.

DARIEN CENTER NEW YORK

The Community African Violet Club of Darien Center, New York, was formed March 17, 1951, with twenty-nine members from Erie and Genesee counties. Meetings were held the fourth Tuesday of the month.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Isaac Sharick
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Orman Richert
Secy-Treas.,	Mrs. Walter Dehn

TRENTON NEW JERSEY

The African Violet Club of Trenton, New Jersey, held their second annual joint luncheon meeting with clubs from Salem and Gloucester County, New Jersey, and Springfield, Delaware County, Penn., at the White Gate restaurant on September 8, 1951. There were forty members present.

Each club took part in the entertainment. The Salem County Club showed colored slides of different varieties and growing habits of the African violet.

Mrs. Ralph Frye of the Springfield Club gave an interesting talk on her experience with seedlings.

Mrs. Betty Skelton of the Trenton Club had prepared an African violet quiz. Violet plants were given as prizes to the one having the most correct answers. Mrs. Jessie Lewis of the African Violet Society of Salem County won first prize and Mrs. Philip Filing of the African Violet Society of Springfield, Penn., won second prize.

ADDISON MICHIGAN

The Bean Creek Valley Society met at the home of Mrs. Helen McGill, Addison, Michigan, on Tuesday afternoon, October 9, 1951, for the second anniversary of the local club's origination with nine members present.

During the business session officers for the new club year were elected as follows:

President,	Mrs. Eugene Ruder
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ollie Safe
Secy-Treas.,	Mrs. Winifred Clement

Program plans for the new year were discussed. It was decided that the hostess for each meeting should make a table, buffet or mantel arrangement featuring African violets appropriate for a holiday in the month or in keeping with the season of the year. Plans are being made to have practical demonstrations on violet culture as part of several of the years' programs. The Jackson, Michigan, African Violet Club will present a program at the April, 1952, meeting and the local club will return a program in May.

PORTLAND OREGON

In June, 1951, the Portland, Oregon, African Violet Society sponsored an African violet show for non-members and held an open forum meeting at the same time. Various subjects of African violet culture were discussed, such as lighting, watering, fertilization and disease control. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baker described their "white room" where they are growing violets under fluorescent lights.

Prizes for single crown plants went to Mrs. Jack Raab and Mrs. Berkey, both of Vancouver, Washington. For multiple crown plants, Mrs. F. Berkey of Vancouver; Mrs. E. G. Chuinard and Mrs. G. E. Spencer of Portland won the prizes.

SIOUX CITY IOWA

The Siouxland African Violet Society was organized in October, 1951, at the Art Center in Sioux City with twenty-two persons present.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Miss Maude Ellen Lynch
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Vernie Larson
Secretary,	Mrs. John Adair
Treasurer,	Mrs. Earl Waters

Fifty guests were present at a tea honoring the newly elected officers given at the Art Center on December 6, 1951. Mrs. E. Ray and Mrs. B. C. Smith were on the hostess committee and Mrs. A. L. Domke and Mrs. Frank Thomas, Jr., were in charge of the arrangements.

AFRICAN VIOLET SHOWS

SHOW AT AKRON

Plans are under way for the Greater Akron African Violet Society Annual Show, which will be held May 19 and 20, 1952, at O'Neil's second floor auditorium. May 19th hours will be from 2: P. M. until 9: P. M. and May 20th hours will be from 10: A. M. until 4: P. M.

The show is under the direction of Mrs. Harold Dannemiller, chairman and Mrs. T. A. O'Neil co-chairman who will be assisted by Mrs. John Martin and Mrs. Gertrude Palmer.

WICHITA SHOW

The Wichita Saintpaulia Society of Wichita, Kansas, will have its first show April 19 and 20 in the show rooms of the local Cadillac dealer. Mrs. Paul J. Newman is president.

GREENVILLE S. CAROLINA

The Greenville, South Carolina, African Violet show will be held April 7 and 8 at Sears Shelter, 16 East Park Ave. Mrs. Ed Copeland is chairman of the show. Mrs. J. W. Brabham is president.

SHOW AT TECUMSEH

Tecumseh, Nebraska — April 19 and 20, 1952
Tecumseh Community Building

MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN

The Milwaukee County African Violet Society will hold its first show on Friday, April 18th in the Wisconsin Room of the Anthenum on East Kilbourn Avenue. Mrs. Willard S. Harland is general chairman.

HASTINGS NEBRASKA

The African Violet Society of Hastings, Nebraska will hold an African Violet Exhibit on April 8th. A special feature will be the Invitation or Guest Table . . . for details you are invited to contact Mrs. Garth Osterhout of Hastings.

1952

INTRODUCING

- **GRAND AWARD** - The violet judged best of all unnamed seedlings exhibited at the N. A. V. C. in Dayton. Truly the Giant of Doubles, flowering with huge medium-blue blossoms (many with yellow eye), borne on erect stems. Foliage is large and medium green, contributing to the stately aspect of the plant. Our choice for the Monarch of Doubles. (Illus.) $2.50
- **BRUSSELS SPROUTS** - Every collector will want this plant, regarded as the most unusual of African violets by visitors at the last N. A. V. C. The double flowers are leafy in texture, deeply serrated and varying from greenish white to medium blue in color. The "Parrot Tulip" of the Saintpaulia family. Supply still very limited. $2.50
- **APOLLO** - Handsome light blue flowers are borne on sturdy stems. The semi-double blooms resemble singles but have a small rosette of petals surrounding the yellow eye. Most important, the flowers do not drop. $2.00
- **PETITE** - An outstanding light blue double with clusters of small, perfectly formed blooms. Red coloration on underside of leaves adds particular distinction. $1.50
- **TEAR DROP** - A dainty variety with small semi-double baby blue blooms. Flowering is profuse and well grown plants are a mass of bloom. $2.00
- **ALMA WRIGHT** - Our wonderful new white double, ready for release this coming fall.

Several fine new varieties are planned for the coming year, including new Fringettes of different hues and improved characteristics. For complete descriptions write for our new Free 1952 catalogue. And for a direct preview, visit our booth at the N. A. V. C. in Chicago.

FOR VIOLETS OF TOMORROW LOOK TODAY TO

All plants sent parcel post. Add 10c per plant for orders under $5.00. Special Delivery add 25c. Shipments resumed in April. Check or money order with all orders, please.

Fischer

DEPT. VM

LINWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Presenting - - -

Tinari's Pink Luster

A luscious sea shell pink of profuse blooming quality. This new registered vigorous growing variety produces a constant succession of lush pink blossoms as many as 15 to 20 per flower stalk. Dark green foliage slightly cupped and quilted showing a slight bronze tinge and a pink suffusion underneath, greatly resembling the ever popular Tinari's Blue Eyes.

Colored picture on magazine cover, also appearing in full color on the jacket of Helen Van Pelt Wilson's new "Complete Book of African Violets." The beauty, lovely form, leaf pattern, profusion of bloom and vigorous growing quality of this new pink give it outstanding collector and commercial value.

We are accepting orders on this variety for fall. $5.00 each

We reserve the right to limit quantity on orders accepted.

NEWEST TINARI INTRODUCTIONS READY FOR SHIPMENT

HELEN WILSON BOUQUET — Wine red double flower on fancy girl leaf. $1.50 each.

WINE VELVET — Deepest single wine red to date. Lush forest green foliage. a real beauty that holds its color well. $1.50 each.

NEWEST VARIETY GROUP

Painted Girl, Lacy Girl, Christina, Snow Girl, Five Dotts, Blue Heiress, Velvet Girl, Double Dark Beauty, Double Azure Beauty, Double Sailors Delight $1.50 each.

PURITY — (Pure White Double Flowering) $2.00 each.

RUFFLED BEAUTY — Interesting bronze red girl foliage, deep Lavendar Bi-Color flowers $2.00 each.

Tinari's America, Navy Bouquet, Marine Bouquet, Ruby Bouquet, Velvet Bouquet, Ruffles Bouquet $1.25 each.

Mammoth Red, Star Sapphire, Geneva Star, Delaware $1.00 each.

CHOOSE FROM THESE GOOD STANDARD FAVORITES

Rainbow Geneva, Fantasy, White Girl, Lavendar Girl Hybrid, Snow Prince, Helen Wilson, Blue Chard, Red King, Blue Warrior, Amazon Blue Eyes, Amazon Purple Prince, DuPont Lavendar Pink, Gorgeous Bi-Color, Lady Geneva, Neptune, Purple Girl, Sailor Girl, DuPont Blue, Burgundy, Plum Satin, Crinkles, Ruffles, Tinted Lady, Double Orchid, Mentor Boy, Violet Beauty 75c each.

ALL STAR BEGINNERS GROUP 50c each

Tinari's Blue Eyes, Jessie, Double Russian, Pink Beauty, White Water Lily, Purple Prince, Red Land, Amethyst.

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED — Approximately 300 seeds to pkg. $1.75 pkg.

New Beautiful Ceramic Pots. (Photo on cover) in glorious soft colors. Sky Blue, Yellow, Redwood, Green. 4½ x 4½ x 3½. 2 pieces $2.50 Postpaid.

All orders $10 and over sent postpaid. Under, add 50c

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African Violet Magazine

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MISSOURI BOTANICAL
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JUNE 1952 VOLUME 5 NUMBER 4

Unusual AFRICAN VIOLETS Will Bring

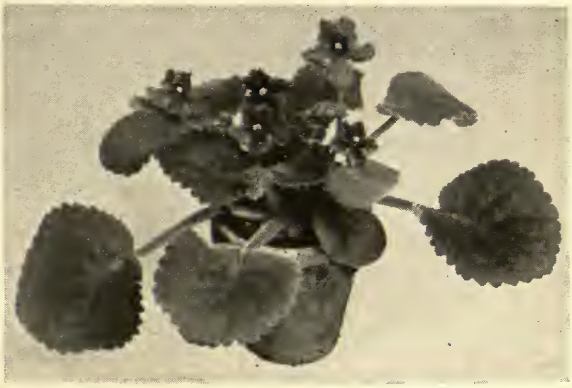
New Beauty to your indoor windowsill garden . . .

another sure prize-winner in your own collection!

RUFFLED QUEEN

$3.25 postpaid

- **Fringed Dark Burgundy**
- **Massive duPont foliage**
- **Always 5 or more buds**



HERE'S an African Violet that will catch the eye of every visitor!

Extra heavy flower stalks always carry more than 5 huge buds, and the edges of each petal are so heavily ruffled and frilled that they have an appearance of being edged with lace of a lighter shade than the rest of the wide-open flowers!

As each bud unfolds it is a joy to behold! The crinkled petals have such heavy substance that you can hardly wait until it attains full size and true color . . . a blue burgundy that is a bit darker than Purple Dawn. The reverse of each WIDELY OPENED flower is a real novelty also, reminding you of starched ruffles!

Massive DuPont foliage with stems of pencil thickness or even more, and each leaf will attain unusual size. This wonderful new variety might be our best seller this season! Order Now.

VELVET GIRL

$3.25 postpaid

- **Was "tops" last season**
- **Lots of big flowers**
- **Rich orchid with dark tips**

LOOK at the photograph, for it tells you more than words can describe! Clean-cut and adorable.

DO YOU HAVE

Pink Delight	Lacy Girl
Star Sapphire	Rainbow Geneva
Blue Heiress	Red King
Purple Dawn	Blue Warrior

You'll find them among the 33 BEST VARIETIES described in our catalog!

32 PAGE CATALOG FREE

The biggest catalog we've ever issued . . . contains 19 true photographs and honest descriptions of all 33 varieties listed. If you want plants that are guaranteed to arrive in good condition order from —

Shipping season commences when weather in Detroit is above 40 degrees to prevent plants from freezing!

Spoutz African Violet Greenhouse

34368 MORAVIAN DRIVE

FRASER, MICHIGAN

LAZY SUSAN STANDS

FOR AFRICAN VIOLET LOVERS

LAZY SUSAN PLANT TREE

PRICE $45.00

LAZY SUSAN LAMP STAND

PRICE $42.50

SPECIAL SUMMER SALE

10 PERCENT DISCOUNT ON ABOVE PRICES IF PURCHASED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 1952

DESCRIPTION OF LAZY SUSAN PLANT TREE

- EASILY HOLDS FIFTY PLANTS
- HAS FOUR SHELVES 10", 16", 22" AND 28" IN DIAMETER
- HEIGHT 55" — WEIGHT 23 LBS.

Shipped Knocked Down Flat
(Easy To Set Up)

These attractive and sturdy Lazy Susans display your beautiful plants and make it easy to water and change position which is so necessary to proper plant culture.

The shelves rotate easily.

These stands are highly decorative as well as useful for any room in your home.

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Features Common to both Stands

- Attractive Sturdy Contruction
- Chrome Plated Tubing
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DESCRIPTION OF LAZY SUSAN LAMP STAND

It can be used as a combination flower and magazine stand. Has two 24" shelves. The top shelf easily holds 7 large plants. The lower shelf holds 30 small pots or can be used as a magazine shelf.

Furnished Without Lampshade

It is fitted to mount any three wire lamp shade.

HEIGHT 55" — WEIGHT ABOUT 20 LBS.
Shipped Knocked Down
(Easy To Set Up)

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Add 2% Sales Tax in Illinois

PETRICK BROTHERS, Inc.

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ONE THOUSAND WORDS . . .

could not begin to tell the story of **PINK CHEER** as well as the front cover of this magazine. The beauty of this, our own introduction,* is there for all to see.

The story, however, is not quite complete.

Those who saw **PINK CHEER** at the National Convention will be quick to agree that the picture doesn't do justice to the color of bloom. **PINK CHEER** is truly the deepest rose pink yet seen.

PINK CHEER WILL BE SHIPPED

We are accepting mail orders (on this variety only) for immediate delivery.

Plants are strong 2¼" in bloom. They will be shipped in plastic pots to help insure good condition upon arrival.

Price . . . $2.50 Postpaid

*See Registration report, March '52 "African Violet Magazine", page 50

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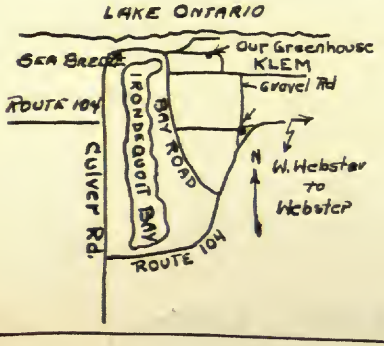
IF YOUR VACATION TRIP TAKES YOU INTO OR NEAR NEW YORK STATE, PLAN TO VISIT OUR GREENHOUSE. OUR DISPLAY IS ONE OF THE FINEST. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.



JOHN R. GENT

595 VOSBURG ROAD, WEBSTER, N. Y.

2 MILES BEYOND SEA BREEZE

THE SELECT VIOLET HOUSE

ONE fellow has one thing new -- we have something else new. Remember we do not always have the other fellows new varieties.

African violets are developing so fast you cannot keep up with them, so be sure you get the best when you buy, YOU ARE THE JUDGE. Send for my circular.

Introducing

"ORIENTAL" A PRIZE winning variety at the National African Violet Show in Philadelphia. You have been awaiting this striking variety, here it is for $2.50 each. "CALIFORNIA RED" the reddest African violet we have seen. According to the story circulated through the Grapevine there is quite a mystery connected with the origin of this variety $2.50 each.

Circular on Varieties shown at the Chicago Show upon request.

We reserve the right to limit the quantity of any of the varieties.

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African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Alma Wright, Editor
Box 1326, Knoxville, Tenn.

Mary Parker, Assistant Editor
Harrill Hills, Knoxville 18, Tenn.

Evan Roberts, Research Editor
355 N. Harrison St., E. Lansing, Mich.

Floyd L. Johnson, Advertising Mgr.
79 West Gibson St., Canandaigua, N. Y.

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 West 3rd, Perry, Iowa.

Neil C. Miller, Mgr. Veterans Affairs
Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J.

Contributing Editors - Boyce Edens,
Regina Gottshall H. G. Harvey
Naomi Cotton

News Reporters - Harriet F. Lawton
Emily Hodan Daisy Jones
Warren Gottshall Phyllis Ferrall
Martha Mears Ruth Dahnke
Florence Foltz Lauretta L. Littig

Homing Pigeon Dept.:
Helen Pochurek, News Editor
14425 McCracken Rd., Cleveland, Ohio

Iva G. Woods, Membership Mgr.
226 High St., New Wilmington, Pa.

OFFICERS

Floyd Johnson, President
79 W. Gibson St.
Canandaigua, N. Y.

Mrs. W. P. Dahnke, 1st Vice-Pres.
5611 Newton Rd., R. 1
Merriam, Kansas

Mrs. E. G. Magill, 2nd Vice-Pres.
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MY SMALL COLLECTION OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Mai M. Freyre, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico

Since two years ago I began my collection of African violets, buying plants from the States and from some plant growers of the Island. Up to date I possess more than thirty varieties of them. Among them I have several plants of the S. grotei (creeping) of a Purple Blue Color and some rare different varieties. The Saintpaulia grotei seems to be like a hanging basket, it is wonderful.

Here in Puerto Rico, we have many enthusiasts of this beautiful house plant and in spite of that many of the African violet lovers say that this tropical climate of our beautiful Island is harmful to them, they grow wonderfully and are profuse bloomers.

I am a lover and admirer of flowers, and this is my hobby, but since I came in relation with this marvelous little plant, they have my preference.

I possess nowadays more than six hundred plants and I am just beginning in my home a small African violet business.

APPROVED BY AUTHORITIES Available at your Favorite Seed, Hardware, Florist or Variety Store.

"AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE SPECIAL"

20-oz size 15-30-15 All Soluble Liquid Fertilizer Regular $1.25 (for feeding African Violets and other house plants). Kapsulate (30 capsules) Regular $1.25 value **ALL for TWO DOLLARS**

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"New Combination Boxes consisting of 30 Kapsulates (Capsules) and 2½ ounces of PLANT-L-IZER (High Soluble Fertilizer for Liquid Feeding). Used to sell for $2.00 now only **ONE DOLLAR."**

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NEW African Violets

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We are offering this charming plant with the understanding that it will be available July or August—if possible in bud or bloom. By ordering now you may be assured of enjoying this **BRILLIANT** and **CERTAINLY UNIQUE RED** in full bloom in your own home this winter. Take our word for it, beautiful Red Princess is the one and only **TRUE CRIMSON VIOLET** well worth waiting for. Orders placed now will be filled strictly in rotation. Each $2.50.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Star in your collection

Our Brilliant New

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Glowing cerise cast even deeper
At the throat

Truly the most exquisite companion
To our own famous Fantasy

Limited supply so order early. Each $2.50

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Known for Quality Plants

THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU —

Plans are being made now for the 1953 program at the meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. Suggestions from YOU would be most welcomed by the Program Committee.

Write to:

MRS. JAMES B. CAREY
601 Garden Avenue
Fountain City, Tenn.

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Change of address: Send your new address at least 30 days before the date of the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

Remember Chicago

Our convention was the largest in our short history. Those who did not attend surely missed a grand meeting with an African Violet fellowship that cannot be surpassed.

We want to sincerely thank Mrs. William H. Fowkes, General Chairman; Mrs. Elmer Szontagh, Co-Chairman; Mrs. E. G. Magill, Program Chairman and all the local members who made this convention the grand success that it was. Our thanks are also extended to the commercial exhibitors -- and to those who very generously contributed the many prizes and surprises which were given out all during the convention.

One of the foremost features of the convention was the participation of the Affiliated Chapters or Societies. This was most evident in the interestingly competitive amateur show -- which is coming more and more to the front as a truly great highlight of our convention. Your Board has appointed Mrs. E. G. Magill as Chairman of Affiliated Chapters. Your Board also voted unanimously that after January 1, 1953 no group would be allowed to retain 50¢ of a membership for its treasury unless it was an Affiliated Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Briefly the necessary qualifications for affiliation are:

1. At least 25% of each Chapter's local members must also be members of African Violet Society of America.
2. All officers of each Affiliated Chapter must be members of African Violet Society of America.
3. Each Affiliated Chapter must submit a copy of its Constitution and By-laws, and all amendments thereto, to African Violet Society of America.
4. Each Affiliated Chapter must submit a copy of its entire membership, including a list of the names and addresses of its officers, to African Violet Society of America. Such list to be composed of the names and the addresses of all local members. These lists to be submitted once each year immediately after the election of new officers by Affiliated Chapters.
5. Each Affiliated Chapter must pay to African Violet Society of America an annual Membership Fee of $2.50.

Nashville, Tennessee is our next convention city with Mrs. Arthur Radtke representing our Society as Chairman. Mrs. W. C. Dalton is the General Chairman; and Mrs. James B. Carey of Fountain City is Program Chairman. Progress is already being made with plans for a bigger and better convention.

Husbands and wives may attend the Annual Meeting and share a membership with one vote. It may be necessary to limit attendance at the banquet due to somewhat smaller facilities and I would surely advise getting your reservations and registrations in early -- when the proper time comes!

One of the many surprises of the Chicago Convention was the appearance of appropriate Binders for your issues of the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE. These are now available from our Editor and you will find information on page 42 of this issue.

Congratulations to Mrs. Eunice Mercer, Treasurer of the Metropolitan African Violet Club of Washington, D. C., and to Mrs. E. T. Huber of the Viking African Violet Society for their generous donations to our Research Fund. Also to the Akron, Ohio African Violet Society for their very nice donation.

I especially want to thank the members of the Board for their faithfulness in their regular attendance to the many sessions. Without their wise judgment our Society would not be able to progress as rapidly as it has! ! ! !

Sincerely,

Floyd L. Johnson

Left, photo shows three shades of blossoms -- deep violet, mauve and white.

Below, plant with pink blossoms.

COUSIN

STREPTOCARPUS

I have often wondered if plants like people have some relation that they are not too proud of and when they speak about them they use that hush, hush, voice -- if they speak about them at all . . . The Streptocarpus and Saintpaulia both belong to the same family; and from my limited experience with the former, the African violet has nothing to be ashamed of when she claims the Streptocarpus for a first cousin.

Streptocarpus: The common name is Cape Primrose and it originally came from South Africa and Madagascar. The Greek words meaning twisted fruit gives it it's name and the seed pod bears this out as it grows into a narrow twisted pod that looks just as though someone HAD twisted it.

There are several species: S. dunni, S. rexi, S. kewensis and S. wendlandi. S. dunni is the most striking species, I believe, as it is said to produce a single leaf up to 2 feet long with violet-blue flowers on stems 2 to 2½ feet high. The description sounds most interesting and I am sorry to say that I have not grown it as yet. I am familiar with S. rexi and I grew a number of these one year and they produced their lovely small mauve

A small plant growing from a leaf cutting is in the foreground. Seed pods are shown behind the leaf and young plant to show the shape and size of a developing pod.

Martha Mears, Ind.

flowers with a purple stripe at the throat, quite abundantly. After they had flowered for a winter and a summer they died. I have since been told that they are biennial and whether this is true or not they did not stay with me very long.

My interest in the Streptocarpus was aroused many years ago, long before the Saintpaulia was as popular as it is today. It was through a Gesneria Round Robin which discussed all of the plants in the Gesneriaceae family of plants . . . that I gathered the following information. I am giving some notes made then:

PROPAGATION BY SEED

Use a covered container which has been filled with equal parts of finely sifted peat moss and sand with a little charcoal or broken pot in the bottom of the container for drainage. Place the seed lightly on the surface of the peat and sand and press in -- do not cover them -- just press them into the mixture. Cover the container and keep in the shade until the little seeds begin to come up.

As soon as the young leaves are about ½ inch tall pot into a 2½ inch pot. Remember to always use drainage in the bottom of the pot . . . as the plants grow repot them into 4 inch pots. Three year old specimen plants will reach a spread of 24-30 inches with up to 100 blossoms if they are properly cared for. (So they said!)

PROPAGATION BY DIVISION

This seems to be the easiest and quickest method to increase your supply of Streptocarpus. The mature Streptocarpus plant has a rhizome like growth from which the leaves grow. By cutting this rhizome in sections each containing some leaves and roots -- just as you would separate a multiple crown African violet plant -- you may repot the new plants into good soil and they will produce a full grown Streptocarpus plant for you. This may be done at any time of the year if the plants are not in bloom. (For goodness sake, do not move them while they are flowering --)

PROPAGATION BY LEAF CUTTING

Leaf cuttings may be handled in the same manner as one does African violets or begonias. The large lateral veins are cut thru and the leaf pegged down on moist sand or the leaf stem end may be inserted in moist sand, peat moss, vermiculite or sphagnum moss. Small plantlets will appear at the base just as the African violet produces it's little plants. This method of propagating does work very well and strong plantlets will soon appear. If you use a battery jar or other covered container instead of a pot or growing flat do be mindful that the leaf does not get too damp and rot. The same care as one gives the Saintpaulia seems to to be adequate in growing a healthy young Streptocarpus.

Cont. on Page 56

SOILS FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

H. G. Harvey, Ga.

Mrs. Genntison -- Gathering woods dirt.

The African violet is not very finicky about the soil in which it grows. It has a few definite basic requirements, and it does not care very much how those requirements are met. There are hundreds of ways in which a soil can be built up to meet those requirements, and as a result, there are hundreds of soils in successful use by the Violet amateurs of America today.

Perhaps the most nearly fool-proof formula is the good old reliable "Three Thirds" recipe -- one third soil, one third humus and one third sand. For "soil", one can use woods dirt which is the black soil occurring in a thin layer under trees, more than half leaf mold; good garden soil; the black loam that the Mid-west grows the Nation's corn in; or some river silts. Avoid a clayey soil. For "humus", the field is wide open. Some of the favorites are: leaf mold; well rotted manure; peat moss; and compost. For "sand", use builders or river sand, avoiding the finer packing sea beach sand. Alternate materials are vermiculite and cinders (screened through a quarter inch mesh) but these are both rather tricky; vermiculite because it retains so much moisture and cinders because they retain so little. They are well worthwhile soil materials but are distinctly not fool proof. Mix up equal parts of one material selected from each of the above three lists, and the chances are ninety-five out of a hundred that you will come up with a satisfactory violet potting soil.

It would seem to be good advice to recommend that a person should stick to a good recipe once he has found one and tested it out on his plants. Whether this advice is good or bad, practically no African violet amateur follows it. Nearly all of them are forever tinkering or experimenting with new or modified soils, and the amateur who is using the same soil now as she was eighteen months ago is very much an exception.

So we go into the modifications of the "Three Thirds" formula. In the first place, with most soils, one third sand is more than is required. This is partly because there is generally some sand in the soil part of the formula, and partly, I believe, because one third sand is actually more than is required unless a little clay has crept into the mixture some way. Thus we get to the "Two Fifths" recipe, which is two fifths soil, two fifths humus and one fifth sand. In general, this makes a highly satisfactory mixture, but it is not as universal and safe as the older one.

Next, we run up against the fact that soil and humus are, to a considerable extent, interchangeable. The balanced condition of an equal amount of soil and humus called for in both the Three Thirds formula and the Two Fifths formula is not necessary, and in numerous cases this ratio can be unbalanced with an improvement in the final soil mixture. Generally the unbalance is toward an increase in the amount of humus, with a corresponding decrease in the amount of soil, but this is by no means always the case. African violet soils must be porous, and have about the correct amount of moisture retentivity. While a soil can very easily lack porosity, it does not

Screening

Cow

Manure

appear that it can be too porous for the violet -- at least it is very difficult to make it too porous -- but it can be too moisture retentive, producing a soggy, easily water logged soil, as well as not moisture retentive enough. Most (but not all) humuses are not porous enough and are too moisture retentive by themselves, and the soil is used partly to correct these tendencies. The proportion of soil required to accomplish this result depends upon both the particular humus and the particular soil used. Quite often two or three soils or two or three humuses are used in the same formula to obtain a balanced result. Apparently, within the limits set by the porosity and moisture absorbing requirements, the soil with the highest proportion of humus is likely to be the best soil.

Part of the apparent unbalance is a question of nomenclature. Practically all soils contain humus, some of them, some wood dirts for example, so much that they could very properly be called humus. On the other hand, some composts, usually classed as humus, have a fair percentage of soil. Some soils have such a high proportion of sand that no separate sand ingredient is required. Any

Mrs. Rhodes standing beside a pile of well rotted sawdust.

Mrs. Genntison looks over a pile of Cotton Mote.

time that no sand appears as an item in the recipe, it is a fair assumption that the soil portion of the recipe supplies the sand. The violet does not give a hang where the ingredients come from, whether they appear in the formula or whether they are concealed under some other name, all it in concerned with is the final result.

Finally, we have the "soil modifiers." These are ingredients added to the soil in small amounts to compensate for a deficiency or to obtain a specific result. They are like seasoning in cooking, and the violet enthusiasts have certainly seasoned their soils to taste. Their persistence and ingenuity in searching out new humuses is only exceeded by their curiosity and daring in applying soil modifiers.

Modifiers can be divided into three classes; the inert modifier, the fertilizer modifiers, and the medicinal modifiers. The chief inert modifiers are ground limestone and charcoal. Ground limestone is used to correct excessive acidity in the soil, and to bring the chemical reaction nearer to neutral (pH 7) or beyond it. The quantity, of course, should depend upon the original acidity of the soil, however, an average dose seems to be about a tablespoon to three cups of soil. Alternate materials are crushed oyster shells and fine limestone used in building roads in some parts of the country. Hydrated lime, such as is used in the building trade is not acceptable.

Charcoal is used to "sweeten" the soil. Wood charcoal is used, broken up into small pieces about the size of a pea, and mixed with the soil. Charcoal briquettes, made from sawdust, do not work, as they gradually disintegrate when wet into very fine particles. The quantity of charcoal used is not at all critical, applications vary from two tablespoons to a half cup of charcoal for each three cups of soil. Charcoal has another special use. Quite often it is used to provide drainage in the bottom of the pot, preventing the soil from washing out through the drain hole, and at the same time letting the water through. In most parts of the country, it can be obtained in feed stores, where it is sold to be incorporated with chicken feed, and is known as "chicken charcoal."

This charcoal is already broken up into about the right size pieces.

Fertilizer modifiers are numerous and wide spread. To produce the best flowers, violets must be fertilized. There are two ways of supplying the fertilizer, either in the soil or dissolved in the water used to moisten the soil. Some people depend entirely on fertilizer in the soil, others depend entirely on fertilizers applied when watering the plants, but by far the majority play their cards both ways, putting the basic fertilizer in the soil and supplementing it by periodically adding soluble fertilizers to the water used in watering the plants.

Practically no African violet soil has enough phosphorus to supply the plants' needs, so it is very common to find superphosphate or bone meal in soil formulas to make up for this deficiency. About a tablespoon of either of these ingredients to three cups of soil seems to be about the average practice, and they are not exclusive, that is, a tablespoonful of each of them can be put in the

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SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

(A letter from Austin Ford to Henry Peterson)

Dear Mr. Peterson:

In answer to your letter of Feb. 4, I thought I'd tell in simple words the story of the organisms associated with the diseases of the African violet. either as scavengers which are present incidentally, or as secondary invaders which can enter the plant only when a different kind of organism first makes its entrance.

Plants are the basic food of man. He may eat other animals but they in turn eat plants in order to build up their protein. The large plants we eat manufacture their own food, with the aid of a green substance called chlorophyll, which also gives the green coloring to plant leaves.

Any organism without this chlorophyll cannot elaborate its own food and therefore must derive it at the expense of some other that can. Since there are a number of groups of plants that lost their chlorophyll at one time past, or never had any, these groups have the problem of attacking plants that make their own foods. Such groups of plants are bacteria and fungi. Bacteria are one-celled plants. Fungi are a number of cells in a row, forming a filament, a number of filaments of which together form a white or dark cottony mass such as you see when you lift up a rotten log. This cottony mass is the true body of the fungus and it is called a mycelium. The toadstools and poffballs are only temporary reproductive structures and the main body of the fungus is in the ground.

Bacteria must live off other organisms or organic material living or dead. Man once thought they attacked only animals and fungi only plants, but there are several groups which attack plants also. Bacteria are about 1/50,000 to 1/25,000 of an inch in diameter. 400,000,000 (four hundred million) could fit in a single grain of sugar. Because of their small size they are hard to identify.

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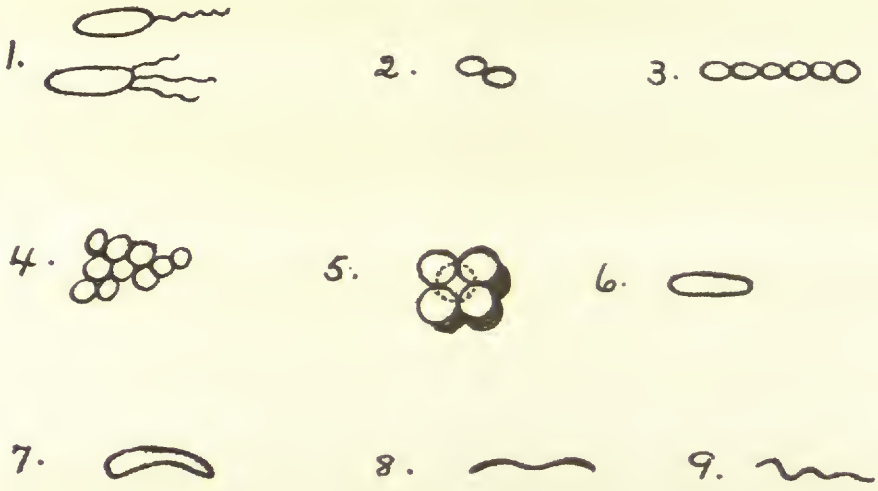
1, Many of them are motile and swim around in moisture, with one to several whip-like structures to propel them. 2, In shape they range from cocci (spherical) which include diplococci, (in pairs) and 3, streptocci (chains). 4, (Strep sore throat), staphylococci (irregular groups) and 5, sarcinae (cubical groups) to cylindrical shapes which include 6, bacilli (short straight rods) 7, vibrio (short curved rods) 8, spirillum (twisted, rigid) and 9, spirachaete (twisted, flexible).



WHY-

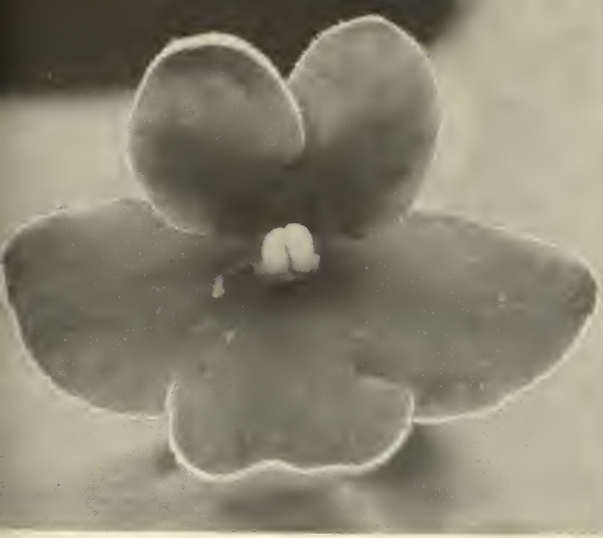
Harriet Lawton, Mass.

In the early days of the African violet and when hybridizing was just getting under way, there came into being a few plants which were patented and they did literally make one's mouth water. At that time there were none to take their places. To propagate and sell necessitated buying 100 wooden labels bearing the name of the owner of the patent rights, the name of the variety and the patent number. Also, an agreement must be signed by the purchaser of these labels that he agrees to abide by the conditions as set forth by the owner of the patent rights. Of course one may resell plants that already have such a label with them when purchased without the additional labels.

Now, to sell 100 plants of one variety is a lot of plants for the small grower. Some wholesalers will sell these labels in lots of 100 to a small grower and be glad to do so. On the other hand I have had the experience of having been turned down by one wholesaler who didn't care to bother with such a small order.

We have therefore prepared a list of patented plants with their alternates for the small grower

Top right, Pink Beauty; Top left, Blue Girl; Center, White Lady; Bottom, Pink Girl.



Lady Geneva blossom.

Gorgeous

NOT SUBSTITUTE

in order that they may propagate and sell plants that are equally as beautiful as the patented varieties and there are now many such plants on the market.

I would like to add that this list of alternates has been prepared by the courtesy of Alma Wright who is familiar with them. Some of them I have raised but many of them are new to me so, like you, will probably be trying them out.

Patented Plant	Alternates:
Pink Beauty	Pink Star, Pink Leatherneck, Dainty Maid, Pink Cheer, Pink Perfection, Pink Rapture, Pink Lady, Mrs. Evelyn Banks, Pink Luster, Pink Delight, Rosie O'Grady.
White Lady	White Sister, White Queen, White King, Snow Prince, White Girl, White Water Lilly, Brown's White, Snow Queen, Thunderhead.
Blue Girl	Emperor Wilhelm, Sailor Girl, Purple Girl, Purple Glory, and all of the **My Lady Series.**
Pink Girl	Pinkie, Pink Princess.
Lady Geneva	Choir Boy and Bridal Wreath.
Gorgeous	Grand Lady and Gypsy Rubra.
Star Sapphire (Pat. app. for)	We do not know of an alternate as yet.

Star Sapphire

FIRST AFFILIATED CHAPTER - The Muscle Shoals African Violet Society

FAMOUS FIRSTS

FIRST LIFE MEMBER -

Mrs. J. E. Mackey, below

Elizabeth Peterson, Calif.

The San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., honored Mrs. J. Ernest Mackey of Alhambra, California, founder and first president of the chapter, with a life membership in the African Violet Society of America at the regular meeting held November 14, 1951, at the American Legion Hall in Alhambra.

Mrs. Theodore Banks, program chairman, made the presentation for the group in appreciation of Mrs. Mackey's work in organizing the local chapter and serving as president for two and one half years. This is the first time a life membership has been presented by any chapter to their immediate past president. Mrs. Mackey is at present Regional Councilor for the Pacific Coast of the African Violet Society of America, and has organized several chapters in this area and as far north as Portland, Oregon.

Mrs. Mackey received another honorary award from Norvell Gillespie on the Ortho Garden Guide Program. A beautiful Vanda orchid lei sent direct from the Hawaiian Islands was presented to her for the wonderful work done in organizing new chapters for the African Violet Society of America.

FIRST GOLD RIBBON -

Left, Mrs. R. Milton Cochrane, African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City.

Ruth Dahnke, Kans.

The African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City held their annual show February 23rd and 24th, in the Little Theater of the Municipal Auditorium. Mrs. Joe Herman Jr., was Show Chairman; Mrs. Robert Montgomery was Assistant Show Chairman.

The Gold Ribbon Award of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., was offered for the first time. Mrs. R. Milton Cochran won with Blue Eyes 97%, Mulberry Girl 96% and Emperor Wilhelm 96%.

Sweepstakes was won by Mrs. George Pendleton. The Tri-color ribbon for Best in the Show was awarded to Mrs. J. R. Bush with Double Neptune.

Of special interest was the Educational table. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Seevers displayed a small greenhouse with fluorescent light. The blooming plants inside had never seen daylight. Plants effected by insects and disease were enclosed in large glass jars.

The show was judged by Mrs. Ferne Kellar of Des Moines, Iowa.

FIRST JUDGING SCHOOL -

Memphis and Shelby County Society

Ruby Ward, Tenn.

When I first took over the presidency of the Memphis and Shelby County African Violet Society I realized I had many responsibilities. But the biggest one of all was the planning of our annual African Violet Show. We had two shows previously, and oh, what confusion there was on the day of the show. Classification Chairman, Schedule Chairman, and Entry Chairman all in a huddle with the General Chairman. I realized we were new and had many things to learn, but that we could not take too long to learn, and surely not be the trial and error way. I knew we had Nationally Accredited Flower Show Schools, and that I was a Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judge, but I certainly did not feel qualified to meet all the situations that arose. Judges were hard to secure and when they came, they said they did not know the names of the violets, or what merits they were to be judged on, and as you know ANYONE who grows African violets resents a plant getting a blue ribbon that is not a good horticultural specimen, if it doesn't have symmetry, luxurious foliage, flowers according to variety, -- so with a membership of 300 I knew something had to be done immediately.

I wrote Alma Wright and asked her if there was anyone available who could come to us and instruct us on how to put on an African Violet Show, and how we could have qualified judges. Mrs. Wright replied that such a course was under way and she thought that within 6 months they would be available for the clubs. In January of 1951 I purchased a little "African Violet Handbook on Judging," by Mrs. James G. Carey. I studied that book religiously, so one day I decided to write Mrs. Carey, and ask her if she could give us this much desired information, and in just a few days a reply came from Mrs. Carey saying YES she could give us this course. Immediately plans were under way and on October 25th we had our African Violet Judging School. I thought we were the first club in Western Tennessee to have such a school, but imagine my surprise when Mrs. Carey said we were the first in the United States to have such a school. Thirteen of our ladies took the examination and many sat in on the lecture; so this year when our new president Mrs. Edward Toulon plans for the show, I know it will be an inspiration to know that she has so many qualified people to help. Last year we had approximately 20,000 to visit our show and this year we will be ready with a smile of confidence to welcome twice that many.

MY INTEREST BEGAN . . .

Erna Petrick, Ill.

Mrs. Petrick and Susan Lamp Stand.

All of my life I have loved flowers and never have my window sills been empty . . . When Frank and I were married I wanted to become a real gardener. My new home had many windows and a nice flower and vegetable garden. It reminded me so -- of my home in Europe. At once I went to work planning and buying plants. A nice formal garden was made and in no time it became my pet!

Frank gave me a great deal of worry trimming too close to my beloved flower beds . . . Now and then he snipped a favorite plant off or changed the shape of a flower bed with the power mower. By now I am sure you have guessed that my husband likes to do all the yard work with power equipment -- he does not give time to hand trimming.

A beautiful little bed of sweet violets near my kitchen window gave me an inspiration . . . Why not give the yard to Frank and let him garden there the way he wanted to with his "farm" machines -- and I would take the house for indoor gardening.

This happy solution to our "garden problem" soon found me purchasing African violets. My first did not flower so well . . . but in time when I grew my own from leaf cuttings, successful bloom was mine!

Troubles came my way in the form of Cyclamen mite and nematodes. During this difficulty I became acquainted with the National Society and decided to become a member. My plants, all 250 of them had to be thrown away and I started all over.

I now grow all my plants from leaf cuttings -- except those I purchase from my good friend Rose Peters. New leaves are carefully washed in NNOR before they are put down for propagation. This takes a little more time but it certainly is worth it.

All my windows and tables were full of plants -- so I had to ask Frank for help. He agreed to build me a Lazy Susan plant stand out of a projector table. My strawberry jar was such a joy -- I had it on a stand and turned it a little every day -- it gave me the idea.

My Lazy Susan was soon made and it worked so wonderfully well that everyone who saw it wanted one like it. So another and another was made and Frank began to manufacture them for sale. In the meanwhile, another table with a lamp connected has been designed and is now for sale.

At first I gave my African violets away when people admired them and asked to buy . . . However, as time passed I decided to charge for them and to give the money to German charity. All money I make goes for parcels and postage for the unfortunate German Refugees. These people have been displaced from their homes and have so little as all was left behind when they were forced to leave their homes. My violet money has helped spread a little happiness and has given comfort to helpless and dependent persons far away.

As I watch my violets grow I often wonder, "What will be the next good deed that African violets will do?"

Star News Garden Columnist J. J. Littlefield (left), who is also well-known as a garden lecturer and radio and TV commentator, was almost snowed under when readers of his Sunday column in this paper wrote asking for copies of an African violet pamphlet which he offered to give them. Charles D. (Chuck) Perlee of the Pasadena Star-News staff helps J. J. count the letters.

African Violet Most Floriferous House Plant

J. J. Littlefield, Cal.

Once you're bitten by the African violet "bug" you're sunk! Recently an African violet fan, Miss Marnie Yarrington of Berkeley, visited relatives in Southern California. When she telephoned me I asked her how she heard of me. She answered, "I had my African Violet Society membership list and found your name and address as nearest to where I was staying." Miss Yarrington's statement proves that sincere garden folks are not strangers to each other. That you don't have to be a member of a fraternity, sorority, or a lodge organization in order to find friendship and hospitality in another city, or a strange town.

Following day, Miss Yarrington came over, visited with mother and inspected her African violet collection. We piled into the car and called on Mrs. Edith Mackey, African Violet Society Regional Councilor for the four western states. The visitor from Berkeley was impressed with Mrs. Mackey's violets, some seedlings, rooting leaves, to large potted plant specimens.

I tagged along, and like a six year old, listened to the experts discuss violet culture. Frankly, when these violet "bug bitten" experts speak about crossing these plants in order to get new varieties, they sound like race horse breeders trying to "improve the breed." When those lassies spoke about crossing African violets with the "girls" it got me! I asked, "Why not the boys?"

These experts were just as dramatically descriptive of sizes of their specimen pot plants, as are fishermen when telling and illustrating the size of fish that got away.

It isn't uncommon to find that some African violet fanciers even have those plants in the bath-

Cont. on Page 53

GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS WITH 300 F. C. LIGHT INTENSITY

Naomi S. Weeks, N. Y.

Top bed is 31" above the floor and is 5' wide by 6' long. The battery of 3 lamps can be raised 6' above the floor, for watering or, when customers are selecting plants. The light intensity is 300 foot-candles when lowered about 14" above the pot-tops.

The lower bed is used for propagating and growing-on of small plants. The 2 lamps are stationary, but the bed platform is adjustable. It is 4' wide by 6' long and usually kept 16" below the lamps. The light intensity directly under each lamp is 200 foot-candles, while half way between the lamps it is only 100 foot-candles.

Cont. on Page 64

S. obicularis, about 5/4 natural size. Photo by R. E. Moreau.

SAINTPAULIA OBICULARIS

This most recently introduced African violet plant is a species of Saintpaulia. As stated in the article, "Saintpaulia Species" in the African Violet Magazine, Volume 5, Number I, a species is a category of classification lower than a genus. As far as the species of African violets, or more correctly East African violets, are concerned, consider a species as a representative of distinct groups of wild East African Saintpaulia plants. Usually the group possesses in common one or more distinctive characters and reproduce their characteristics in their offspring. They have the ability to produce plants like themselves. Many of these species are within a comparatively small area of Tanganyika but even within this area they are sharply localized. These species have been growing, or now are growing in their native locations in East Africa and most of the known ones have been introduced into the United States within recent times. Species have a natural beauty as a specimen plant but their main value is their possible use to create new Saintpaulia varieties. Hybridization with varieties has produced seedlings with strikingly different characters than are to be found in the usual varieties of African violets.

Evan Roberts, Mich.

Saintpaulia orbicularis, B. L. Burtt has leaves which are nearly round, hence its name. Its habit of growth is upright. Flowers are nearly white, with a violet-blue circle around the center. It is very floriferous for a species.

In its wild state where it was discovered by Mrs. R. E. Moreau in 1936, this Saintpaulia grows in the West Usambara mountains between Sakarre and Ambangula at an altitude of 4,000 feet where the shade temperature by day reaches 84°. The nights can be quite cold, down to probably 45° in June, July and August. Its favorite site is the bank of a stream though its roots clear the water. Perfect drainage and shade are essential. It was found growing on a low bank of a tiny stream passing under a road near Sakarre and again at Shume at an altitude of between 6,000 and 7,000 feet but on the same mountain block.

Cont. on Page 55

SAINTPAULIA TESTS

Howard Hanchey*

*This Report was submitted for publication by Henry Peterson, Chairman of the Scientific committee. — Editor

ABSTRACT

1. The effect of quantity of artificial light on flower bud initiation, development and plant growth.

The variety being used in this test is Orchid Wonder. Small single crown plants were used to start the test. A night temperature of 60° F. has been maintained. The potting mixture used was 1 part soil, 1 part peat, 1 part well rotted manure and one part sand. The pH is kept at approximately 6.5, with nitrogen at 10-25 ppm, phosphorus 2½ -5 ppm, Potash near 2-ppm, and calcium 150-200 ppm.

The plants are being grown under daylight fluorescent tubes. There are three different light intensities, with three different periods of duration.

100 ft. candles	300 ft. candles	600 ft. candles
6 hrs.	6 hrs.	6 hrs.
12 hrs.	12 hrs.	12 hrs.
18 hrs.	18 hrs.	18 hrs.

One hundred plants were placed under each of these light treatments and five plants were sectioned weekly from each treatment, for microscopic study to determine the effect of the treatments on flower bud initiation.

Ten plants were left in each of the treatments and flowers are counted weekly to determine the effect of the treatments on flower bud development and total production. At the completion of the test the dry weight will be determined on the ten plants in each treatment. This will give an indication of the total plant growth.

11. The effect of varying amounts of natural light on the reproductive and vegetative development of Saintpaulia in the greenhouse.

The variety Orchid Wonder is used in this test. Plants were potted in the same mixture, and received the same treatment as those in the previous test.

One hundred plants were placed in each of six cages and covered with cloth layers. Cloth layers were adjusted so that during the Peak light intensity of the day the light intensity would not exceed the stipulated intensity. Light readings are taken every two hours from 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. with a light meter, and recorded. The treatments are as follows.

Plot	Maximum light intensity (foot-candles)
11	1300
13	1100
15	900
17	700
19	500
21	300

One hundred plants were placed in each of six cages and covered with cloth layers. Light readings are taken every two hours from 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. and recorded. The layers of cloth are adjusted every two hours in an effort to maintain all plots at the stipulated light intensity.

The treatments are as follows:

Plot	Maximum light intensity (foot-candles)
12	1300
14	1100
16	900
18	700
20	500
22	300

Five plants were sectioned weekly from each treatment to determine microscopically the effect of the various light treatments on flower bud initiation. Ten plants were left in each treatment and flowers are counted weekly to determine the effect of the different light treatments on development and total production of flowers. The dry weight will be determined from these ten plants to ascertain the effect of the treatments on total plant growth.

Insofar as is possible the data obtained from plants grown under natural light will be correlated with the data obtained from plants grown under artificial light.

SAINTPAULIA PROJECT

Howard Hanchey

A. The effect of quantity of artificial light on flower bud initiation, development and plant growth.

1. Objective

a. To determine the daily quantity of light that will promote optimum reproductive and vegetative development in Saintpaulia.

b. To determine the photoperiodic response of the plant.

2. Procedure

a. Plants of the variety Orchid Wonder are being grown with adequate ventilation at a night temperature of 60 degrees F., in a soil mixture consisting of one part of sandy loam, one part well rotted manure, one part sand and one part peat at a pH near 6.5; with nitrogen at 10-25 ppm, phosphorus 2½ to 5 ppm, potash near 20 ppm, and calcium 150-200 ppm.

b. Small single crown plants in 2½ inch pots were used to start the test. They were shifted to larger pots when needed.

c. The test is being conducted in an opaque structure. Daylight fluorescent lamps are being used in plots 1 through 9.

d. The test will run approximately 10 months and 900 plants will be used.

e. Plots. Nine plots were set up as follows:

Plot	Number of plants	Light intensity in foot-candles	Light Duration
1	100	Fluorescent	6 hrs.
2	100	100	12 hrs.
3	100		18 hrs.
4	100	Fluorescent	6 hrs.
5	100	300	12 hrs.
6	100		18 hrs.
7	100	Fluorescent	6 hrs.
8	100	600	12 hrs.
9	100		18 hrs.

f. Data

1. The test began July 4, 1951.
2. Five plants from each treatment were sectioned weekly for a period of nine weeks.
3. The following data are being collected:

a. Date of flower bud initiation as determined microscopically.

b. The flowering date in each treatment.

c. The number of flowers per plant recorded once per week.

d. The diameter of the foliage spread recorded every two weeks.

e. Determination of dry weight at beginning and end of problem.

B. The effect of varying amounts of natural light on the reproductive and vegetative development of Saintpaulia in the greenhouse.

1. Objective

a. To determine the daily quantity of natural light that is necessary to promote optimum reproductive and vegetative development in Saintpaulia.

2. Procedure

a. The test is being conducted in a greenhouse.

b. Plants of the variety Orchid Wonder are being grown with adequate ventilation, at a night temperature of 60° F., in a soil mixture of 1 part sandy loam, 1 part well rotted manure, and 1 part peat, at a pH near 6.5, with nitrogen at 10-25 ppm, phosphorus 2½ to 5 ppm, potash near 20 ppm, and calcium 150-200 ppm.

c. Small single crown plants in 2½ inch pots were used to start the test. They were shifted to larger pots when needed.

d. Plots. Twelve plots were set up as follows:

Plot	Number of plants	Maximum light intensity (foot-candles)	Treatment
11	100	1300	Leave shade on
12	100	"	Remove shade to maintain max. F. C.
13	100	1100	Leave shade on
14	100	"	Remove shade to maintain max. F. C.
15	100	900	Leave shade on
16	100	"	Remove shade to maintain max. F. C.
17	100	700	Leave shade on
18	100	"	Remove shade to maintain max. F. C.
19	100	500	Leave shade on
20	100	"	Remove shade to maintain max. F. C.
21	100	300	Leave shade on
22	100	"	Remove shade to maintain max. F. C.

e. Light readings are being made at the leaf level in each plot and recorded every 2 hours from 8 A. M. to 6 P. M.

f. Layers of cloth are being used on the plots to give the desired light intensities.

g. Cloth layers are removed when needed to maintain maximum foot-candles.

h. Data:

1. The following data are being collected.

a. The date of flower bud initiation as determined microscopically using 5 plants sectioned weekly until Dec. 1.

b. The flowering date of each treatment.

c. The number of flowers per plant recorded once a week.

d. The diameter of the foliage spread recorded every two weeks.

e. Determination of dry weight at beginning and end of problem.

SAINTPAULIA TESTS (1951-1952)

Howard Hanchey

The 1950-1951 tests at Ohio State University under the auspices of the African Violet Society were continued, even though the fellowship from that organization was no longer available. However, a sum of money was allotted for equipment and Henry Peterson of Cincinnati again generously donated the cuttings. All lamps used were donated by General Electric Company, Nela Park, Cleveland, Ohio, through the courtesy of Joe Ditchman.

The tests in 1951-1952 were conducted primarily to determine the feasibility of producing Saintpaulias under artificial light. However, for comparison purposes and for determination of practicability of the artificial light culture from the standpoint of costs, a separate set was also grown in the greenhouses.

Variety -- Orchid Wonder was used througout the tests. The leaf cuttings were stuck in May and potted in 2½" pots July 1. They were grown temporarily in the greenhouse under intensities varying from 300 to 1,000 f. c. (from morning until noon). On August 2 the tests under varying conditions of artificial light and in the greenhouse were started. October 6 all plants were shifted to 4" pots. The soil mixtures were the same, consisting of one part silt loam, one part sand, one part peat, and one part manure. Superphosphate was added to the soil at the rate of a 4" potful to a wheelbarrow. Additional fertilizers were applied in liquid form (1 oz. ammonium sulphate and 1 oz. muriate of potash to 2 gallons of water once a month).

300 Fc
Orchid Wonder
8 hr
300 Fc
Orchid Wonder
12 hr.

The treatments were divided into two parts. One group was placed in a windowless and insulated basement where relative humidity was maintained at 60% and the temperature at 65° F. Daylight, 40 and 85-watt fluorescent lamps were suspended at varying heights to provide the required intensities of illumination. Each block was separated by black cloth partitions. The treatments in this basement were:

1. 100 f. c. for 6 hours each day
2. 100 f. c. for 12 hours each day
3. 100 f. c. for 18 hours each day
4. 300 f. c. for 6 hours each day
5. 300 f. c. for 12 hours each day
6. 300 f. c. for 18 hours each day
7. 600 f. c. for 6 hours each day
8. 600 f. c. for 12 hours each day
9. 600 f. c. for 18 hours each day

The plots in the greenhouse were as follows:

11. 1300 f. c. on
12. 1300 f. c. off
13. 1100 f. c. on
14. 1100 f. c. off
15. 900 f. c. on
16. 900 f. c. off
17. 700 f. c. on
18. 700 f. c. off
19. 500 f. c. on
20. 500 f. c. off
21. 300 f. c. on
22. 300 f. c. off

The on plots were covered constantly with several thicknesses of cheesecloth which were so arranged to give the maximum reading at noon. As a consequence the light intensity varied greatly during the day. The off plots were so arranged that by making readings every two hours, it was possible by placement or removal of cloths to maintain readings reasonably close to the desired levels for a greater portion of the day.

Table 8. Effect of varying light intensities on number of leaves, number of crowns, and size, Recorded February, 1952.

Plot	Treatment	Average number of leaves per plant	Average number of crowns per plant	Average Diameter in inches
		BASEMENT		
1	100 f. c. - 6 hrs.	22.3	1.2	9.87
2	100 f. c. - 12 hrs.	28.2	1.1	13.60
3	100 f. c. - 18 hrs.	36.9	1.2	14.45
4	300 f. c. - 6 hrs.	28.7	1.2	14.00
5	300 f. c. - 12 hrs.	42.4	1.3	14.95
6	300 f. c. - 18 hrs.	52.3	2.4	13.35
7	600 f. c. - 6 hrs.	44.6	1.3	14.40
8	600 f. c. - 12 hrs.	54.3	2.4	14.15
9	600 f. c. - 18 hrs.	55.7	2.4	13.25
		GREENHOUSE		
11	1300 f. c. - on	78.2	3.9	10.80
12	1300 f. c. - off	81.9	3.6	10.30
13	1100 f. c. - on	72.5	3.6	10.60
14	1100 f. c. - off	87.5	4.4	10.42
15	900 f. c. - on	65.8	3.1	10.95
16	900 f. c. - off	65.8	3.2	10.35
17	700 f. c. - on	65.5	3.1	11.95
18	700 f. c. - off	77.5	3.7	11.40
19	500 f. c. - on	53.6	2.6	11.95
20	500 f. c. - off	63	3.7	11.80
21	300 f. c. - on	60.6	3.1	12.50
22	300 f. c. - off	44	2.4	11.95

The table shows that with an increase in intensity and length of illumination in the basement there was an increase in the number of leaves and increase in crowning. The size as measured by diameter did not change materially above 100 f. c. for 12 hours. Under greenhouse conditions there was a significant increase in the number of leaves in 1100 to 1300 f. c., whereas the crowning remained similar. However, there was an increase in size with decrease of intensity which would be expected. Comparing the plants in the basement with those in the greenhouse, it was noted that although the number of leaves in the basement plants was smaller, even at 600 f. c. for 18 hours, the size of the plant was greater than any in the greenhouse. This increase in size was not due to petiole elongation, but because of the very noticeable increase in size of leaves, which incidentally were extremely dark in color.

2hr
Orchid Wonder
100 Fc
2hr
Orchid Wonder
300 Fc
2hr

Table 9. The effect of light intensities on the number of flower stalks and flowers from September 6, 1951 to February 1952.

Plot	Treatment	Flower stalks per plant	Flowers per plant
		BASEMENT	
1	100 f. c. - 6 hrs.	1.6	2.9
2	100 f. c. - 12 hrs.	9.5	35.6
3	100 f. c. - 18 hrs.	8.1	36.9
4	300 f. c. - 6 hrs.	10.4	34.1
5	300 f. c. - 12 hrs.	18.0	87.7
6	300 f. c. - 18 hrs.	17.4	111.0
7	600 f. c. - 6 hrs.	18.9	91.9
8	600 f. c. - 12 hrs.	22.6	180.8
9	600 f. c. - 18 hrs.	28.3	239.3
		GREENHOUSE	
11	1300 f. c. - on	30.4	178.5
12	1300 f. c. - off	24.5	136.9
13	1100 f. c. - on	26.1	142.6
14	1100 f. c. - off	23.4	130.5
15	900 f. c. - on	23.8	120.8
16	900 f. c. - off	21.7	120.5
17	700 f. c. - on	23.2	113.4
18	700 f. c. - off	23.2	126.9
19	500 f. c. - on	18.4	95.5
20	500 f. c. - off	20.6	104.4
21	300 f. c. - on	15.9	69.9
22	300 f. c. - off	17.9	94.3

This table shows a gradual increase of flower stalk and flower production as intensities rose to 600 f. c. in the basement, the highest being 600 f. c. for 18 hours illumination. In the greenhouse in a similar fashion there was a gradual increase in flower stalks and flowers reaching its height at 1300 f. c. It will be noted, however, that a greater number of flowers was produced in the basement and also that the number of flowers per stalk was greater. In the basement plants than those grown in the greenhouse.

Table 10. Comparison of time required to produce saleable plants -- basement grown vs. greenhouse grown. (Two months were required in the cutting bench to produce young plants with 2-3 leaves which could be potted.)

Plot	Treatment	Length of time to salability
	BASEMENT	
1	100 f. c. - 6 hrs.	Plant good, flowers lacking
2	100 f. c. - 12 hrs.	Plant good, flowers lacking
3	100 f. c. - 18 hrs.	Plant good, flowers lacking
4	300 f. c. - 6 hrs.	Plant good, flowers lacking
5	300 f. c. - 12 hrs.	3½ months
6	300 f. c. - 18 hrs.	3 months
7	600 f. c. - 6 hrs.	5 months
8	600 f. c. - 12 hrs.	3 months
9	600 f. c. - 18 hrs.	2 months

SHADE REMOVED
300 Fc
SHADE REMOVED
500 Fc
SHADED
SHADE REMOVED
SHADED

SHADE REMOVED
SHADED
SHADE REMOVED
SHADED
SHADE REMOVED
1300 Fc
SHADED

Table 10 continued

Plot	Treatment	Length of time to salability
	GREENHOUSE	
11	1300 f. c. - on	4 months
12	1300 f. c. - off	5 months
13	1100 f. c. - on	4 months
14	1100 f. c. - off	5 months
15	900 f. c. - on	4 months
16	900 f. c. - off	5 months
17	700 f. c. - on	4 months
18	700 f. c. - off	4 months
19	500 f. c. - on	4 months
20	500 f. c. - off	4 months
21	300 f. c. - on	4 months
22	300 f. c. - off	4 months

The record shows that where adequate light itensity and duration were given, the plants under the controlled conditions of heat, humidity, and light developed faster than any of those grown in the greenhouse. In other words, it was possible to produce a good salable plant under 600 f. c. -- 18 hours, in two months after potting. The cost of light installation and the cost of electric current are small in comparison with the results secured. For living room installations, supplemental light, using fluorescent lamps is not only warranted but desirable. The intensity needed may be determined by subtracting from 600 f. c the light available to plants under their present growing conditions. To produce results indicated in the basement experiments, maintenance of adequate humidity (60%) and proper temperature 65° F. is necessary.

***Dr. Howard Hanchey**

R. Howard Hanchey, a graduate student in the Horticulture Department of Ohio State University at Columbus, Ohio. An associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture at Louisiana State University and associate Horticulturist with the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. Hanchey has been on a years sabbatical leave, working on a doctorate degree in Floriculture at Ohio State University.

Under the direction of Henry Peterson and the Scientific Committee which is composed of the following members of the Society: William Carter, Neil C. Miller, Mrs. Theo Greer, Evan Roberts, Mrs. Edwin C. Lotz and Carl Lewis, great progress has been made in the making available of scientific data relating to the growing and production of better Saintpaulias. — Editor.

FLUORESCENT BANDWAGON

Robert and Frances Nicholson, D. C.

If you would like to grow African violets with outstanding foliage, prolific bloom with deeper color, and plants of compact, symmetrical shape, then hop aboard the fluorescent bandwagon. You can operate right in your basement, without a worry about windows or temperature.

The following equipment is required:

(a) One or more two-tube, fortywatt fluorescent light fixtures with reflectors. (Cost -- about $12.50 each.)

(b) Two forty-watt "Daylight" fluorescent tubes for each fixture. ($1.00 each.)

(c) One Automatic Timing Clock Switch. (Approximately $15.00.)

(d) One or more galvanized iron trays, 48" long, 20" wide, and 2½ deep. ($8.00 to $10.00 each.)

(e) One wall thermometer.

One light fixture with reflector will give sufficient light intensity to grow thirty mature plants, (more if the plants are smaller), in three-inch pots placed in the tray. The fixture should be placed so that the measurement from the bottom of the light tube to the top of the three-inch pot is eleven inches. (See your African Violet Magazine, Volume 5, Number 2, dated December 1951, "Results of the Research Work With Saintpaulias at the Ohio State University," Page 21.)

You may construct either a table or a shelf to hold the tray. A table may be made in one to three tiers. Let your requirements determine the amount of your equipment, but take a constructive hint, and build a three-tiered table. You will need it once you start your violet growing under lights. You wait and see.

Set the Automatic Time Switch to give the plants fourteen hours of fluorescent light each day. We have obtained excellent results with a switch-on at 6 A. M., and switch-off at 8 P. M. We may find that twelve hours will suffice in the summer, but our schedule has not yet been established.

In Washington, D. C., in an unheated basement, we have found that by draping an old sheet or cloth over our table during the winter months, a temperature of 65 to 70 degrees F. has been maintained during the daytime with the lights on.

Humidity in an unheated basement is higher than in your living quarters, and to supplement humidity, we have placed about one inch of builder's sand in each tray. By watering the plants in the morning from above the plants, using a hand syringe, the excess water falls on the sand and evaporates, making the atmospheric conditions perfect for the plants. If you use tepid water, or water that feels lukewarm to your hand, just water away, and have no fears about crown-rot or leaf-spotting. However, you should only water the plants when the surface of the sand becomes dry. This means about every third day in winter. It may be about each second day in the summer months.

Insect-control spraying with NNOR or OPTOX (these are the only two which we have used, hence the qualification,) may be done directly under the lights without removing the plants. We spray once a month. If the dipping process is used, the plants may be replaced immediately, without fear of leaf-spotting.

Feed mature plants in bloom once a month, using your own preference in plant foods. We have followed the advice of Helen van Pelt Wilson, and have alternated different foods. Fertilizers should be applied directly to the soil, and not allowed to come in contact with the foliage.

Soil compositions vary. We are using the following mixture:

(a) One bushel of rich woods dirt, (screened.)

(b) One gallon bucket of builder's sand.

(c) One gallon bucket of screened peat moss.

(d) One quart measure of bone-meal.

Plants may be grown from seed, or from leaf propagation with excellent results under fluorescent lights.

An interesting comparison between plants grown in a green-house, and plants grown under fluorescent lights, could be obtained by using color photography. However, this is impractical, so here in summary are what may be considered as definite advantages:

(a) Plants are very much easier to care for when watering, feeding, and spraying.

(b) Plants are never leggy, and suffer no ill-effects when transferred from under the lights.

(c) Plant growth tends towards flatness, and the blooms are carried well above the plant.

(d) Foliage is rich and glossy, and leaves are short-stemmed.

(e) Blooming is prolific, with the flowers of deeper color.

(f) Growth is vigorous and compact, and plants set buds much earlier.

We are not fortune-tellers, but we honestly believe that several years hence, the green-house cultivation of African violets will be a thing of the past. Fluorescent lighting is the coming thing. So, take our advice, hop aboard the fluorescent bandwagon, have fun, and get in on the ground floor, or should we say basement.

REGISTRATION REPORT . . . .

Neil C. Miller

PART I

The following applications for Registration have been received during the period January 1, 1952 to March 10, 1952. No objections to registration are apparent.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

Juno 1-1-52
Miss Edith B Hendrix
9927 E. Howland Drive
Temple City, California
*Seedling: Gorgeous x Red Head. Rapid growing with lush foliage, flat, up to 15" in diameter. Bright green leaf with white veins, leaves large in proportion to length of petioles. Normal blossoms VR6 with two upper petals VR2, but some are clear VR6 and appear on same stalk with bi-colored blossoms.

Maple Girl 1-5-52
Miss Edith B. Hendrix
9927 E. Howland Drive
Temple City, California
*Seedling: Pink Girl x Blue Eyes. Large plant, flat, up to 15" diameter. Leaf is "girl" type, very dark; center leaves frequently irregular; and leaf has general appearance of a maple leaf. Blossom color BV6 with eye of BV4.

Oakleaf Girl 1-15-52
Miss Edith B. Hendrix
9927 E. Howland Drive
Temple City, California
*Seedling: Flat grower. Leaf is very dark, spooned, with finely serrated edges. Blossoms are BV5 with dark edge, slightly fluted.

Mutineer 1-18-52
Mrs. N. H. Sullivan
West Adams Road
Macomb, Ill.
"So called because it grew from a leaf taken from Sailor Girl but came with a very dark green shiny leaf of the form of Oriental Girl leaf. The blossoms are a bit larger than the average and a blue purple shade with a splash of red covering the upper half of the two upper petals and a splash on the outer tips of the three lower petals. It is a vigorous grower and profuse bloomer.

High Hat 1-19-52
Mrs. Carl Dick
2509 South Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio
"Seedling from Blue Boy and Blue Girl. Open, single crown, upright plant. Center of blossoms extra dark blue, outer part of petal a shade lighter blue, dark orange stamens. The name "High Hat" comes from the eight main veins on top of leaf, extending to the serrated edge. They are ridged and veined upward, glossy light green. These ridged upward veins sparkle with a gloss; very showy in between velvet, hairy quilting. Small veins in quilting are black-green. Small red dot in leaf stem."

Tip-Wood Pink 1-22-52
Mrs. John Q. Rumbaugh
R. R. No. 4
Tipton, Indiana
"Well shaped plant with red petioles about two and one-half inches in length. Leaves are almost round with lightly serrated edges, medium green. Not a Supreme, but of heavier texture than Pink Beauty. Bloom about the size of a silver dollar, deepest pink, cupped and slightly fringed, held erect on sturdy three and one half inch stems. Two and three blooms to the stalk."

Tip-Wood Blue 1-22-52
Mrs. John Q. Rumbaugh
R. R. No. 4
Tipton, Indiana
"A duplicate of the above described "Tip-Wood Pink" with the exception that the bloom is of the darkest blue, and has three and four blooms to the stalk."

Heavenly Blue Eyes 1-25-52
Mrs. Ferne V. Kellar
1223 East Oak Park
Des Moines 16, Iowa
*A variant of Sky Blue, a large upright plant. Leaves are light green with red-violet shading, with a bronze over-lay. Blossoms are a very pale blue, lighter than anything on the Fischer chart.

Holly 1-25-52
Mrs. Ferne V. Kellar
1223 East Oak Park
Des Moines 16, Iowa
*A variant of Ruffles; a large, upright plant. Leaves very dark red violet underneath. Blossom color VB4. Free bloomer, blossoms slightly crinkled.

Marvin's Silver Girl 1-26-52
Mrs. Floyd D. Marvin
R. D. No. 2
Port Byron, New York
"There is a glossy sheen to each dark green leaf which is marked with a zone of white that extends into the veins. The contrast of these dark green satin sheen leaves with the light blue blossoms is very marked and lovely. The blossoms are nearly the same shade of blue as Sailor Girl. The foliage is heavier and larger."

Bonnie Girl 2-6-52
Miss Maude I Mote
171 Academy Street
Newark, Delaware
*Seedling: Lav. Pink duPont x Blue Girl. Large, upright plant with ruffled cupped leaves dark green on top, light green underneath, deeply serrated. Lavendar blossoms, Deeply cupped.

Renie Roper 2-14-52
Mrs. Leslie S. Heck
403 Valley Street
Lewiston, Penna.
"It is a vigorous grower, a prolific bloomer and the plant is well shaped, as the leaves grow very symmetrical. The flowers stay on until they die and then they must be picked off. The color is perfect, a lovely clear white with a sharp yellow eye. The petals are round. The plant has never suckered and the leaves never curl."

Angelica 2-17-52
Miss Edith B. Hendrix
9927 E. Howland Drive
Temple City, California
"Seedling: Blue Eyes x Pink Beauty. A large, flat, droopy plant. Leaves are large, deep green, and have large serrations. Blossom color V4 with V3 eye. Adult plant has as many as 16 blossoms per cluster, always in bloom."

Rose Perfection 2-17-52
Miss Edith B. Hendrix
9927 E. Howland Drive
Temple City, California
"Seedling: Perfection x Red Girl. A small plant growing in a tight rosette, seldom exceeding 6" in diameter. Leaf is dark green, cupped, and shaped like a calla lily. Blossom is good red, cupped, all petals rounded, held on stem 4" above foliage. Similar to Perfection but with darker blossom and darker foliage."

Cont. on Page 44

NUTRITION OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET

CONTINUED FROM MARCH MAGAZINE

Jessie Rawson, Mich.

In contrast to the rapid rate of development of nitrate toxicity potash injury was slow. The plants never seemed able to regain complete turgidity and if injury appeared on the petioles it was confined to a narrow band adjacent to the crown in contrast to nitrate injury which usually discolored one to two inches of the petiole base.

The plants which lived were tested at intervals and nitrates added as needed. Phosphorus held quite constant throughout the test and potash tended to increase as it gradually became available from the soil.

During the winter and early spring the plants developed very slowly and used small amounts of nutrients. They received full sun but there were many cloudy days. The temperature was not too closely controlled and frequently dropped below 60 degrees F. Watering was done with distilled water by filling the saucers used for subirrigation when the soil surface began to dry out.

The pH was checked and was found to average between 6.0 and 6.5. In the extreme nitrate ranges the pH was 7.5 due to the sodium present and when nitrate was blank the pH was 5.5 due to the sulphate anion in K_2SO_4. When both $NaNO_3$ and K_2SO_4 were present in the middle ranges the pH remained between 6.0 and 6.5.

The basis for comparison of different plants and different treatments finally settled upon had four main points:

1. Number of flowers (this was not a season's total but rather a total of three readings taken during late March and April when the plants were in full bloom).
2. Increase in number of leaves ½ inch or more in width (number of living leaves on April 18 minus original number on December 6).
3. Greatest number of peduncles per plant at any one time.
4. General health and vigor of plant (this did not lend itself to tabulation).

Various measurementh such as width and height of plant were tried but were discarded as being impractical. Later, it was noted that the total number of flowers per peduncle correlated rather closely with the nutritional status of the plant especially in regard to its nitrogen supply. This, however, was not noted early enough to use in this study.

As noted on page 14 a tentative and arbitrary optimum was decided upon for each of the three nutrients studied in order that two of them could be stabilized at that point while the third could be varied. This point was 40 ppm. NO_3, 10 ppm. P and 20 ppm. K but this combination definitely did not produce the most satisfactory plants.

This method was not entirely satisfactory, however because it did not give all possible combinations of nutrients. For example, the combined effect of high nitrates and high phosphorus or high potash was not studied directly although there was an indication that nitrates were less injurious when phosphorus was high.

The effect of nutrients in the deficiency through optimum ranges was very slow in appearing and was not pronounced until late March and April. The effect in the toxic ranges has been noted above.

No definite potash deficiency symptoms were observed, perhaps because the soil used contained about 5 ppm. originally and because more became available from the soil as the trials progressed.

Nitrogen deficiency symptoms observed were light colored outer leaves becoming yellow and finally almost white.

Red veination of the leaves especially when observed on the upper leaf surface appeared to be related to available phosphorus in the soil as it never appeared when the test for phosphorus showed 20 ppm. or above and was prevalent in plants testing 10 ppm. or less of phosphorus. A later trial in which 40 ppm. of $NaNO_3$ alone was added to three plants seemed to confirm this. The leaves became deep green and the plants flowered abundantly but red veining was observed.

No correlation could be established between redness on the lower leaf surface and pH although a possible relationship has been reported (26).

An attempt was made to total the increase in number of leaves, the total number of flowers recorded in three observations and the greatest number of peduncles for all three pots in each treatment and relate these totals to nutrients added. In general, this over-emphasized the value of phosphorus and penalized treatments where one or more plants had died. It was true that 100 ppm of phosphorus produced the best series of three plants of any treatment but there was little consistency in the other treatments on this basis. Also, treatments 4 and 5 in which two plants (in the B and C pots) died in each treatment produced very good plants in the A pots. These were severely discriminated against by totalling results from all three pots. The difference in technique as explained on page 15 apparently produced a consistent difference in the

Cont. on Page 58

QUESTION BOX

LAURETTA L. LITTIG 3016 Jefferson Ave. Davenport, Iowa

It seems that the question I receive most is, "What can I do to make my violets bloom?"

Our violets don't need pampering but they do need good care to make them bloom and keep them blooming.

I think one of the most important things is a good, balanced, loose soil mixture. Besides good food, fresh air, humidity, light, and proper watering are necesary. I think it is best to keep the soil always slightly moist instead of letting it get bone-dry and then soaking it. My plants do best if watered a little at the top and a little at the bottom.

The proper size pot is also important. Many make the mistake of using too large a pot for a small plant. I like to start my tiny plants in a two inch pot and then keep shifting to larger pots as the size of the plant requires. I think you can keep your plants blooming indefinitely this way.

QUESTIONS

My plants look healthy for a while then all of a sudden a leaf gets limp looking and starts to turn brown at the tip then withers away. The stem seems firm but the leaf is limp. This also happens to new plants just brought in, in a few days. At first I thought I was watering too much but when I let up, the plants wilted from being too dry. I repotted all my plants in new soil especially for African violets but still have the same trouble. I use the sub-irrigation system of watering. Our water is very hard. The humidity reading is about 20.

Mrs. Ann Sye, Pa.

Has any one successfully crossed a Saintpaulia specie with Achimines? Do the commercial African violet growers think they will be able to develop an African violet with a cone or tuber?

Miss Daisy Jones, Tenn.

Is it harmful to spray and wash your African violets when in bloom?

Stella Lavengood, Ill.

What can I do to get rid of what I believe to be Springtails -- they are tiny white little things that jump when I water the plant.

Mrs. Frank Whiting, Mass.

I am a new member of the African Violet Society and would like to know the meaning of "Soil pH?" Also in raising the violets under lights, what is meant by "light intensity in foot candles?"

Joe Irwin, Ohio

In the June 1951 issue there was an article on "Colchicine in Plant Breeding." I have used it on my violets but as yet haven't noticed any results. I wonder if any one has tried it and their method. I would appreciate hearing from them.

Mrs. C. A. O'Dell, Kans.

I have two pots of African violets with four plants in each pot. They are all in bloom. Could they be taken apart and potted separately while in bloom without loss to either plants or flowers?

Stella Lavengood, Ill.

What makes a healthy looking violet grow on a single root, making it wobbly and what can be done to strengthen it?

What causes brown spots to come on the leaves? As soon as a young leaf comes out these spots can be seen.

Do violet plants do better to separate so there is but one plant in a pot? Sometimes each crown does not have separate roots but has to be broken or cut apart.

Mrs. Walter Blake, Mich.

When rearranging some of my plants, I found my Lady Geneva had lost its white edge to the flower. Upon looking closer, I saw a small sucker at its side, and took it off to start another plant. On cutting it I found the root stock to be ⅜ of an inch across, and hollow inside with tiny insects crawling around in the partly decayed center. By using a magnifying lens, I found grey brown round insects a bit larger than a pin point, also what looked like tiny white worm like growths.

At once I dipped the plant in a solution of 8 drops of Optox to a cup of warm water and left the plant in for fifteen minutes. That has always controlled other insect pests on my plants.

What causes the center leaves to turn grey, and get very brittle deformed stems? I examined the roots which were all right. I cut off the diseased looking center leaves and dipped plant in Optox solution. Then the plant started new growth with many crowns. Do you know of any better way to treat this disease?

Mildred Hoffman, Ill.

I have a Blue Eyed Beauty which has pure white flowers with no trace of blue. Could this be caused from not enough sunshine?

Mrs. J. F. Roche, Jr.

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A Medallion featuring a violet carved in lucite, set off by sequins and beads, mounted on a 22" length of grosgrain ribbon. Black - Brown - Navy - Rose - Green ribbons, each with harmonizing medallion. Colorful and unusual.
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Could you tell me if the violet called "Doc Hess" is the same as Double Margaret which it looks like?

Also please tell me if Purple Beauty is a double. I bought a small plant and as it grew, it looked just like my Double Neptune.

Mrs. Lelah M. Tanis

Can African violets be treated successfully for "Gas poison?" Can the yellow; tho strong, leaves be successfully treated after receiving a bad case of gas poison? Can these leaves be used for propagation? Epsom salts has not restored the color to these leaves. The crowns are dark but at least three rows of leaves are discolored. Will these leaves cause sports or produce blossomless plants due to gas leakage?

Mrs. May A. Price, Ohio

ANSWERS

Soil pH

To Mrs. Joe Irwin, Ohio

pH stands for "per hydrogen ion concentration." Soil pH 7 is neutral. Less than 7 is acid, and more than 7 is alkaline.

W. K. Hunt, Iowa

Colchicine

To Mrs. C. A. O,Dell, Kans.

I have tried Colchicine tablets, liquid and salve on African violets. So far, my best results have been with tablets. I crush one tablet to a tablespoon of rooting medium.

I have tried soaking leaf cuttings and rooted leaves in the liquid solution for about four hours, then setting them down. If you treat a plant or plantlet only the growing tip should be treated. Don't treat all the leaves or you may kill the plant. Personally I have found the best way is to treat a leaf before it roots but it seems to take forever to get it started. For some reason the loss ratio is very great in many varieties. They like to be kept warm but not in bright light. I usually use a vegetable (plastic) humidifier, preferably colored. The treated plants usually show "Supreme" tendency. I have seen one that showed no leaf change but had a huge flower.

Mrs. M. A. Price, Ohio

Crossing Saintpaulia with Achimenes

To Miss Daisy Jones, Tenn.

I have never heard of a successful cross of Saintpaulia and Achimenes. I have tried to cross a Gloxinia with a Saintpaulia but had no luck. Would like to hear from any one who has had success with either of these crosses.

Yellowed Leaves

To Miss Winifred W. Arrington, N. Y.

Violets need plenty of light but not direct sun or too close to window, which will turn leaves yellow. For nice green leaves put in a north window which I find best for nice foliage. Too heavy feeding could also turn your leaves yellow.

Your curling leaves could be too much water and often too little. Keep soil on top just moist and stir it up once in a while. Keep it loose.

Mrs. Helen L. Burchell, N. Y.

Double Blossom Stem

To Mrs. Theo Lamach, Mont.

Your "Ruffles" is all right. It is characteristic for that plant to have little leaves come with the blooms. Sometimes they come out before the bud so wait to see if it is a blossom stem and not a sucker. Sometimes a "Ruffles" will send out thread runners with a tiny plant at the end like the Strawberry Begonia.

Mrs. Helen L. Burchell, N. Y.

Washing Plants in Bloom

To Stella Lavengood, Ill.

It is not harmful to spray or wash your plants when in bloom. The only thing if you are using an insecticide like N. N. O. R. if you get it on your blossoms it will spot them but will not spoil the buds.

Springtails

To Mrs. Frank Whiting, Mass.

I have tried everything I have ever read about to get rid of Springtails with no success. Recently I used one teaspoon of washing ammonia to a little over a pint of water, thoroughly soaking the soil until it ran out the bottom of the pot. As soon as the soil dried out, I again flushed it with the ammonia solution. In about a week I noticed just a couple Springtails which I think had hatched out after the last soaking. I flushed the soil again and have seen none since. Clorox may do the trick but was afraid to risk so many applications on the roots.

Brown Spots on Leaves

To Mrs. Walter Blake, Mich.

If you are sure no insects are bothering your plants, it is possible you have them too close to the window in the sun. This will cause brown spots, especially if you have dropped water on the foliage.

Separating Plants in Bloom

To Stella Lavengood, Ill.

If the four plants in one pot have separate roots, they can easily be separated and repotted. It may retard the blooming for a while but before long, they will do much better than before.

If the plants are just extra crowns on the main plant, these will have to be cut or broken off close to the main stem, and rooted. It is not necessary to root them in water. Touch the cut parts with Rootone and put them in the soil and you will soon have new plants.

Humidity

To Mrs. Neal J. Bellardo, N. Y.

I don't believe the average home has a higher humidity than 40% or 45%. That's what mine averages and the plants do very well. If you can get it higher so much the better.

If your dealer can't supply you send $1 for 1 lb. can postpaid. Makes 100 gallons

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CALLING ALL MEN

E. A. Thompson, Tenn.

The keynote of the 1952 African Violet Society of America Membership Campaign, if there is to be such a campaign, should be "CALLING ALL MEN!"

I discovered a startling fact not long ago. I picked up my 1951-52 Members' Handbook of the African Violet Society and started scanning down the pages of members from different states. Suddenly I noticed how few male members there were. My curiosity was aroused, so I turned back to the beginning and started marking all the male members listed. When I had finished and tallied up the score I was amazed at the results. Out of over 7,000 members listed only 355 were men. Quite a few of those were listed as Mr. and Mrs.

The more I thought about this the less I liked the idea. Surely, in this great land of ours, there were more men interested in growing this most interesting of all house plants . . . Why were so few men members of a Society that gave so much information and interesting facts about African violets for such a small fee? I thought something ought to be done about this situation so I stuck my neck out and wrote our editor on the subject. Mrs. Wright promptly replied and invited me to write an article on the subject. My neck was out, so the only thing left for me to do was write, so here I am!

Mind you now, ladies, I have nothing against you -- You have done a wonderful JOB with the Society and you should continue the good work. I just feel and I know most of you will agree with me, that the male participation should be greater. As a matter of fact, I believe the best approach to enlist more male members is to urge you ladies to recruit the men since you represent the great majority of membership. Show the men (and prospective women members also) what a wealth of information and fellowship they can receive from the African Violet Society and Magazine, at such little cost.

I further suggest that a special department be added to the magazine to arouse the interest of the men. Such a department could be called "From the Male Mail Bag," or any other suitable title to catch the eye and interest of the men, and to be edited by a man. Encourage the men to write in their questions, ideas, suggestions or anything else they have on their minds.

From my experiences in growing flowers, since my childhood, I have found men equally as interested and in some fields more interested in growing flowers than women. I have seen many beautiful collections of African violets owned and cared for by men. One gentleman I was visiting in one of our southern states at one time had a wonderful collection of over 200 plants, with about 150 different varieties. When I asked him if he was a member of the African Violet Society of America he said, "No, that's a woman's club, isn't it?" I assured him it was a Society open to everyone and he was very interested and said he would send in his application for membership the next day. I have heard from him several times since and he is very pleased to be a member of the Society. I wonder how many more men have the same idea about our Society as my friend? Here would be a good chance to tell all prospective male members that our president for 1952 is a man.

I called the president of our local society in December and asked her how many men were members of the Memphis and Shelby County African Violet Society and she told me only one and that he was an honorary member from the Veterans Hospital. She invited me to attend the December meeting. I did so and joined the society, making two male members out of a total of 183. I almost got cold feet and ran when I learned that I was the only man present at the meeting. I had prepared a talk and demonstration on making corsages from freshly fallen blossoms, so I stayed and gave a very nervous presentation. The meeting was so well organized and interesting that I felt at ease in no time. I am looking forward to the next meeting in March and the spring show. I have been asked to be committee chairman of the propagation division for our spring show and I feel honored to have been chosen for this position.

Let's make our society grow. More members this year with the emphasis on "CALLING ALL MEN!"

SUMMIT JEWELRY, INC.

SUMMIT JEWELRY OF AKRON, OHIO, wishes to thank the African Violet Society of America for choosing their design as the official Society pin. The new pin may be ordered from Mrs. Turner, chairman of the National Pin Committee. It is available in Sterling Silver for $3.50, or Gold for $12.50. Made in the shape of an African violet the hard enamel is a beautiful shade of blue.

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FREQUENT Questions

Lyda Sproul, Ill.

An optimistic and trusting editor asked me to write my Saintpaulia experiences.

I did a very unselfish thing when I refused. I was sure if I told the true story, there would be a decided slump in the ambitions of new home-growers. Then came the July issue of the Home Garden and Ralph Bailey's always delightful feature "Bailey's Back Yard," in which he quoted from Thomas Gray's "Ode on the Pleasure Arising from Vicissitude."

I almost changed my mind and wrote the story in order to use that for a title. It would have been grand in big headlines at the top.

But I will still be noble and restrain myself. It was decided instead, to contact some of our ace growers submitting questions most frequently asked.

Letters were received from Fay Wilcox, Florence Foltz, and Mrs. George Pendleton.

Miss Wilcox sends seeds of Saintpaulia all over the world. She wrote her answers to the questions at 3 A. M. Whether she hadn't gone to bed or was just getting up -- this tells the story of her busy life.

Florence Foltz is also a very busy woman with other interests added to her successful violet industry. Florence has come a long way since she rooted her first leaf and wrote her 750 word thesis.

Mrs. Pendleton's plants and blooms are famous. She uses fluorescent lights of the industrial type. Two have 2-48" tubes (white light) and two 3-48". They are about twenty-seven inches from the table and are lighted from 12 to 14 hours a day. She likes the combination of the lights and daylight.

Q. Pots: Do you like clay or plastic?

A. Miss Wilcox likes clay.

Florence Foltz likes plastics. They are cleaner, more colorful and lighter -- this last, an item when using glass shelves. However the soil must be lighter and better drained as the plastic holds the moisture much longer. (You know a violet can drown sitting right in its own pot on a safe window sill.) Mrs. Pendleton uses clay. She is enthusiastic over the new Vermiculite Pottery. They are expensive if one has a lot of plants, but are nice to use for specials.

Q. Do you use a fertilizer or insecticide?

A. Hyponex for food, Optox, N. N. O. R. are widely used but there are many good fertilizers, and insecticides on the market. For black flies an aerosol bomb. Mrs. Pendleton does not feed her plants during the summer months and not more than once a month during winter. In fact she allows her plants to become as near dormant as possible during the summer.

Q. What causes long, leggy stems on blossoms?

A. Not enough light and (or) poor ventilation. Some varieties naturally have longer stems than others.

Q. What can one expect of a seed pod? Anything, or will they be just like one or other of the parent plants?

A. Fay Wilcox: If you pollinate a plant back on itself you may expect it to be like, or very similar to it's parent. But some of the seedlings may decide to resemble their granddaddy.

Q. Does the season make any difference in the time it takes the seeds to mature?

A. Miss Wilcox: Yes. Flowers pollinated in spring or early summer will mature their seeds in less time than if pollinated in fall or winter.

Q. What would be a good cross for a beginner to try?

A. Miss Wilcox: Tinari's Blue Eyes makes a good seed plant -- also Red King, Blue Girl, Mentor Boy. If you are interested in foliage -- Blue Chard, Blue Warrior, Ruffles. Mrs. Foltz crossed Moonglow on Blue Girl. It produced 106 plants with nearly as many kinds of foliage. Her latest cross is Lady Slipper on Blue Snow. Florence says she is not "up" on seasons. She just crosses whenever the notion strikes, and hopes for the best.

Owing to the rather discouraging prelude to all this, I am glad I can end on a brighter note. Things are looking up for me and I am having good luck. I won't enumerate the things I tried. I did a little of everything. One friend wrote she had a big plant that just sat doing the same. She fed her's a dose of black coffee and it bloomed. "That is the wackiest thing I've heard yet," I said, as I picked up the coffee pot and set my course toward the shrinking violet.

It bloomed . . .

I had my tray filled with lime stone chips kept damp, except in extremely wet weather, when the chips are allowed to dry out. My Saintpaulias have had no pests or diseases of any kind since using the lime stone.

And isn't it wonderful that Pleasure can arise from Vicissitude?

CLIMBING AFRICAN VIOLETS

Saintpaulia grotei has brown climbing stem which grows up to two feet the first year, light blue flowers shade to deep violet.

Saintpaulia magungensis has creeping and branching brown stems which hang down around the container, violet blue flowers with darker centers.

Now taking orders for these species at $2.50 per plant from 2-inch pots.

LAKEVIEW GARDENS

Box 20J Fenton, Michigan

PLANT STAND ENCORE

Kathryn C. Deibel, Ind.

Since writing my first article on raising African violets in the "practical plant stand," we have had many and varied experiences.

When the first story was written, we had used the stand for only a short time, but now it has been more than a year and we have a larger stand that has been in use since last May. We are still very happy with our stands and method of growing African violets, but we have learned much -- and would like to pass along some helpful knowledge to others who may be trying the stands for the first time.

As stated earlier, we use vermiculite in the trays. Why? Because it is so much lighter in weight than sand, and holds moisture longer. We get the cheaper grade of vermiculite for that -- such as is used by the building trade.

We have found the best time to water the trays is in the early morning. It takes almost 24 hours for a 3 inch pot to absorb the water so that the top soil is damp. Last winter I was ill and my husband had to water at night. The temperature dropped in the house at night (especially last winter when it went to 19 degrees below zero here) -- and we lost a number of plants from crown rot, caused by the watering immediately followed by cooler temperature. That taught us to water only in the morning when the temperature was on the rise.

I experimented until I found that it took approximately one gallon of water for each tray 48" x 14" x 2" -- with three-inch pots. These were watered twice a week during the time there was heat in the house. If more water was used the pots became too wet. This summer, after the heat was turned off and the house opened I had to experiment again as to the amount of water to use and how often. I only water once in two weeks as we have had so much rain and so much humidity. If I do see a pot between times that appears dry on top, I pour a small amount of water on the top soil for I know it is still moist below.

I wait until the vermiculite in the trays is barely damp -- then I water. Was so afraid of getting rot and mold on my plants that I have been very careful. As yet, I have not had one plant go down with either! The plants thrive and bloom almost constantly. If they do slow down, which they do occasionally, they come right back. Sometimes when the temperature goes high they drop their blooms rather quickly but keep right on blooming.

Another thing we have found out is that one can place a stubborn plant in the trays -- one which has had everything done for it and still refuses to bloom, and in a few weeks, it will be blooming! I had a Saffron Red Boy that absolutely refused to bloom. It was in a four inch pot and I did not want to put it in my trays as large pots take up so much room, but I did finally, as a last resort before it was thrown out. It was placed in the trays and in a short while it was loaded in buds and has been blooming ever since. I guess it knew what it wanted!

The first of June we filled our new stand with small potted plants in 2 inch pots. In a few weeks they were heavily budded and growing like mad. Nearly all have now been shifted to three inch pots and are going strong and blooming heavily here in August. We found these small plants had to be watered differently than the others so I only use three quarts of water to a 50 x 18" tray and water every two weeks. The little pots absorbed so much faster they became too wet if more water was used.

There is one feature about the lights that isn't so nice. It seems to cause the plants to have a tendency to reach out of the pot and they have to be watched or they become wobbly. They grow so fast is the reason, I think.

Another thing, the lights make the blues and pinks much deeper and it makes the reds more on the blue side. At least I have found it so. My reds are redder out of the trays but I leave them in the trays because they grow so beautifully.

Our lights are 40-watt daylight fluorescent bulbs and are on approximately 16 hours a day.

Also -- we have found for best results that the lights should be about eleven inches from the top of the plant.

We are still very happy with our method of raising African violets in our plant stands and hope we have encouraged others to try this method of growing our FAVORITE of all house plants.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

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KENNETH W. GAINES

4 Greer St. Mt. Vernon, Ohio

PARATHION FOR THE CONTROL OF CYCLAMEN MITES AND MEALYBUGS

MR. EDENS WROTE THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY IN RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY FROM HER

Dear Mrs. S.—:

It is a pleasure to answer your recent letter regarding the use of 15% Wettable Parathion, sometimes sold under the trade name Planthion, as a dip in the control of Cyclamen mites, mealybugs or other insects on African violets.

First, Parathion is a most effective insecticide for the control of Cyclamen mites, mealybugs and other persistent insect pests that attack African violets. While highly toxic, Parathion may be used with safety if reasonable precautions are strictly observed. Thoughtless handling of it either in liquid form or the powder itself may cause serious illness. Remember that Parathion as a liquid should not come in contact with the skin -- if it does wash it off immediately -- and the powder or fumes from it must not be inhaled.

When mixing the powder with water in making a solution for dipping as well as in the dipping operations, rubber gloves must always be used. Both the mixing of the solution and the work of dipping should always be done outdoors.

The formula I follow in mixing a solution to be used as a dip is as follows: Dissolve one ounce (avoirdupois) and two teaspoons of the washing powder Dreft or Vel in four gallons of warm water. A medium size, rather deep galvanized or aluminum tub seems to be best to use in mixing the solution and in performing the dipping operations.

The pots containing the plants are inverted, with the first two fingers of each hand holding the plant and soil firmly in the pot, and then dip carefully in the solution. Submerge the entire plant, but not necessarily the entire pot, and no harm will come if the soil in the pot is soaked with the solution. Careless handling of plants in the operation of dipping may break the foliage. To help avoid doing this, dip the plants in the solution using a sort of semi-circular motion. Practice the motion in the air a few times before dipping. This will help. Try it.

Permit the plants that are dipped to dry in a shady place; do not attempt to dry them by other means.

As a rule one dipping will clear up any infestation of Cyclamen mites or mealybugs. But as an absolute safeguard dipping twice at one month intervals will provide complete control. Do not save the solution because it is usually quite messy after being used. Make up a fresh solution for each dipping.

The foregoing operations are simple and easy to perform. Early last fall I dipped about twelve hundred plants, working leisurely, in approximately four hours.

We like to recommend our advertisers who handle insecticides. So, in case you experience any difficulty in purchasing Parathion we suggest that you communicate with Mr. Neil C. Miller, Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, New Jersey. If Mr. Miller does not have Parathion in stock, I believe he will secure it and prepare it in one ounce lots for you to use immediately.

Sincerely yours,

Boyce M. Edens

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A WORD OF WARNING

Ada Magill, Ill.

As I re-read the article by Helen Pochurek, page 43 December 1951 magazine, "ALLERGIC" struck me so forcefully I feel impelled to pass on my sentiments about having tests made for it.

Our favorite little African violet is guilty of causing an ALLERGY among us. . .

My good friend Mary Fowkes, of Chicago (those of you who attended the convention will remember meeting Mary as our chairman) is a victim of such an ailment. For several months before any tests were made she suffered all the symptoms of hay fever. Eliminating most every possible cause for it the Doctor suggested making the allergy test with her African violets, using the secretion from a leaf. Needless to say the reaction was positive.

This meant something had to be done about the removal of her plants. Like you and I Mary felt she just could not give them up entirely. The solution was immediate installation of fluorescent lights in the Fowkes basement. The African violets then made their sojourn to regions below. In less than a week Mary's head symptoms began to clear. However, when a day is spent transplanting or repotting plants she must pay the penalty for a day or two at a time.

Now this is my POINT -- Almost without exception commercially grown plants are treated with sodium selenate or dipped and sprayed with parathion. We are told that sodium selenate is effective in soil for from three to five years. That being true surely plant life as succulent as the African violet will harbor such an insecticide most of its life. Therefore, without intent to alarm anyone, I do believe extreme care should be exercised about the use of any part of a plant for sink tests be it an African violet or any other plant. Should it ever be necessary for you to have an allergy test made KNOW the plant to be used, KNOW whether it has been treated with parathion or sodium selenate or any other poison insecticide or you may have something worse than an ALLERGY!

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REGISTRATION

Cont. from Page 33

Charm 2-20-52
Mrs. Walter Lattin
201 North Almansor Street
Alhambra, California

"Sport, unknown origin; loose rosette, leaves form a large circle, about 18 inches in mature plant. Six-tiers of leaves overlapping each other, graduate on stems from 1 to 5 inches from center of plant. Small plants have light-green quilted leaves. Mature plants leaves are dark green quilted with light green center from stem to center of leaf cupped downward, red under-neath. Leaf measures from 3½ to 4½ inches in length and 2½ inches wide. Cluster of flowers on mature plant average 25 to 30. Size 1 to 1½ inches. Color Orchid, upper two petals dark, three lower light with a line of deep orchid in center of each petal. Flowers on 4 to 5 inch stems just above foliage, profuse bloomer."
* See Part IV

PART II

COMMITTEE PROTESTS

In the December 1951 Report the following plants were published under Committee Protest because it was impossible to tell from the information furnished whether they had been sufficiently propagated:

Dream Girl Supreme	Orchid Wing*
Fuchsia Plaid	Red Rave*
Purple Girl	Paradise*
Oros Candida*	Eclipse
Oros Crimson*	Pennsylvania Lavendar
Red Wing*	Rose Ellevia

Reports have now been received from all the registrants. All plants except Paradise had been sufficiently propagated. The Committee Protest is thus lifted, but because of the uncertainty, the protest period will be extended to September 1st, 1952, instead of June 1st, 1952 as it would otherwise be.

Notation concerning plants marked with * was also made in the March 1952 Report.

African Violet Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors.

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NEW PRICE LIST MAY FIRST

PART III

NAME RESERVATIONS

The following name reservations have been made during this period.

Angel Face	**Persian Butterfly
African Queen	**Persian King
Blue Goddess	**Persian Mary Ann
Blue Morning Glory	**Persian Pink Baby
Blue Mist	**Persian Queen
Cascade	**Persian Skipper
Charity	**Persian Sunset
Charm	**Persian Tony Boy
Dwarf Ionantha	Pilgrim Girl
Faith	Pink Dawn
Gorgeous Bi-Color Supreme	Rosy Morn
Hooded Lady	Sarah Anne
Maid of Honor	Sheila Kay
*Mary-Way	Sir Roger
Mistress Mary	*Temple
Mont Blanc	Temple Beau
Mutineer	Temple Belle
My Jesse	Tip-Wood Blue
**Persian Bi-Color	Tip-Wood Pink
**Persian Bouquet	Trinket
**Persian Boy	Velvet Ruffles

*Series Reservation

**This Reservation has been only tentatively granted. The question as to whether the name "PERSIAN" (a designation which has been applied to various plants for many years) should be reserved for one individual is on the agenda for Board consideration at the Chicago Convention.

Note that some of these Name Reservations are also covered by Registration Applications received later from the person making the Reservations.

PART IV

PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

Despite the plainly worded notice in the December 1951 Report that each application for Registration must be accompanied by a written description which would be published 8 of the 15 Registration Applications were not accompanied by a description; and, despite notice given by the Chairman that he would not compose any descriptions in the future he did compose all those marked with an asterisk in part I of this Report. Again, the "description intent" of the applicant was sought, but it was not realized, the Chairman can assume no responsibility therefore. The responsibility for furnishing a publishable description rests upon the applicant.

PART V

REGISTRATIONS BECOME PERMANENT

No objections have been filed on any plants published in Part I of the June 1951 Registration Report, so these plants now become permanently registered.

SOILS FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

Cont. from Page 12

same soil if desired. Complete commercial fertilizers often appear in formulas. Vigoro for example, with a formula of 6:10:4, can be used in the proportion of about a tablespoon to three cups of soil. The writer has used a 0:14:10 commercial fertilizer with good results. Either of the last two fertilizers can be used a tablespoonful to three cups of soil. Wood ashes are also sometimes used as a source of potash, not so much now as in the past, perhaps because wood ashes are getting difficult to obtain. Wood ashes are rather tricky, the strength is liable to vary, and you have to know your particular wood ashes to be safe. Too much is liable to burn the plants. For a starter, try not over two tablespoons to three cups of soil, start cautiously and work up. (The writer speaks from sad experience). Commercial sheep manure is fairly popular as a modifier, the average dosage appearing to be about a tablespoon to three cups of soil. This by no means exhausts the list of fertilizer modifiers, but is perhaps enough to give the general picture.

The writer has encountered only two medicinal modifiers, although it is highly probable that others are in use somewhere in the country. These two are tobacco dust and Fermate. Tobacco dust is used in the proportions of about a tablespoon to six cups of soil as an insecticide. An average application of Fermate seems to be about a tablespoonful to five cups of soil. Fermate is primarily a fungicide, and its use seems to indicate a desire to control the fungus growth in the soil. Both of these modifiers are rather rare and are not at all in general use.

The appended tabulation gives a list of fifteen actual African violet soils in successful use by growers over the country. These recipes have been selected and arranged to illustrate the general principles of soil building. It is perhaps fairer to say that the formulas in the table are based upon the successful recipes. As received, they came in with all sorts of measurements, and in the interest of uniformity and comparison, all measurements have been reduced to cups and level tablespoons, with the relationship that sixteen tablespoons are equal to one cup. In making this reduction, considerable violence has in some cases been done to the original proportions, for which apologies are due to the contributors. My excuse is that the measurements do not have to be extremely accurate any way. Some of the measurements used were rather funny. I called a bushel 74½ cups; a three inch pot 1½ cups; a four inch pot 2½ cups; a five inch Azalea pot 4½ cups; a shovelful 12 cups; and a single handful ¾ cup.

The first recipe is my own. It was developed in a reaction against previous formulas which had gradually become more and more complicated without any corresponding apparent improvement in performance. It is the naked "Three Thirds" formula. It is apparent that I belong to the school

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who introduce their fertilizers with the water, and it is also obvious that when I made up this formula I was "fed up" on modifiers. The second formula, Mr. Edens', is the "Two Fifths" recipe. Mr. Edens obtains an excellent soil by the high quality of each of his ingredients; his leaf mold, for example, is rotted for three years before use, and nothing is added or taken away from the dry leaves as they are raked up and piled. In the third recipe, Mrs. Genntison splits the difference between Mr. Edens and me, as far as percentage of sand is concerned, using one fourth instead of Mr. Edens' one fifth or my one third. She also unbalances the proportions of soil and humus and introduces a very logical modifier. Mr. Hull's formula, the fourth in the list, is very similar to Mrs. Genntison's, Mr. Hull dividing his soil portion into two ingredients. Mr. Hull also introduces the principal of "layering", making the soil in the bottom of the pot a different composition from that at the top. In his case, the fertilizers are put in the bottom probably with the double idea of inducing the roots to grow down into the pot, and of surrounding the roots of small plants when first transplanted with a bland soil until the inevitable root bruises heal over. This same scheme of layering is sometimes used for other purposes, for example, to put a more moisture retaining mixture at the bottom of the pot, to keep the soil moist longer, feeding the moisture upward from the bottom toward the top. In recipe No. 5, Mrs. Conant uses a "Two Fifths" soil modification, very much unbalancing the soil -- humus proportions in favor of the humus. Kapost is a humus packaged and sold commercially and is reputed to be made from "cotton wastes." Quite possibly it is similar to decayed cotton mote, discussed under Mr. Starr's formula, No. 15.

Then we come to the very interesting single ingredient formulas. Mrs. Courtney (No. 6) used practically pure woods dirt, gathered under live oak trees. She reports that it looks to be about a third sand. She spoils my story a bit (but not the soil) by introducing a little commercial sheep manure as a modifier. However, Mrs. C. A. Rochedieu, of Nashville, Tenn., whose formula is not listed because it is so simple, uses wood dirt pure and undefiled. The only special requirement is that it must always be gathered from the same hill near Nashville. Then Mrs. Gresham (No. 7) uses a formula that is ninety percent wood dirt. The other ingredients -- peat moss and cow manure -- are so reduced in quantity that they appear like modifiers. It is quite apparent that wood dirt is a mixture of varying proportions of soil, humus and sand, and that quite often a wood dirt is found in which the ingredients are so mixed naturally so that it can be used as an African violet soil unchanged.

But after we explain the wood dirt single ingredient formulas, we run into the well rotted cow manure formulas, like Mrs. Haffenden's No. 8. She uses practically eighty percent cow manure, ten percent soil and ten percent sand. The latter ingredients are used to improve the tex-

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ture. These cow manure formulas are fairly common, at least Mrs. Haffenden's recipe can not be considered as an extra-ordinary exception. The one characteristic that all the users of the cow manure formulas emphasize is that the cow manure is extremely well rotted -- much more so than that ordinarily used. It appears that cow manure, when extremely well rotted produces a humus which has better porosity and moisture absorbing tendencies than most other humuses, and that only slight modifications in these respects are required to make it suitable as a violet soil.

Mrs. Hodan's soil (No. 9) has no sand or sand substitute appearing in the recipe. It would seem that her garden soil is probably rather sandy, and her formula is included to show that the composition of the other ingredients affects the amount of sand required. Mrs. Bee's (No. 10) recipe shows the successful use of vermiculite as a replacement for sand.

The next two formulas, Mrs. Liddell's (No. 11) and Mrs. Rhodes' (No. 12) illustrate the famous wood sawdust formulas. It is the writer's belief that this is a Georgia specialty, at least, he has never encountered this humus anywhere else. The trick to wood sawdust is that it must be well rotted, and to rot sawdust takes a lot of time. Ten to twelve years is the minimum that can be tolerated, and even this must be under favorable exposure conditions. Mrs. Rhodes owns a sawdust pile that is over twenty-five years old, and she considers this to be fairly well rotted. Incompletely rotted sawdust acts more like a sand than like a humus somewhat similar to vermiculite. Mrs. Liddell's formula also exhibits a modification of wood ashes used as a fertilizing modifier. She uses ashes produced by burning leaves in the fall. Mrs. Rhodes shows an expedient of value when the modifiers get numerous. All of the modifiers are mixed together in the proper proportions to form a shot gun modifier, which can then be added in one operation to the soil. Mrs. Rhodes uses tobacco dust as a medicinal modifier. Mrs. Westbrook (No. 13) employs Fermate as a medicinal modifier.

The final two recipes employ special humuses. Mrs. Pochurek (No. 14) uses decayed corn ensilage. She found a silo which had not been used for a while in which there still remained a small quantity of ensilage that had decayed. This material proved very valuable as a humus, and Mrs. Pochurek is very enthusiastic about it. She only regrets the small quantity of this material which is available to her. Mr. Starr (No. 15) uses well rotted cotton mote as a humus. Cotton mote is a cotton waste, the last material removed from the cotton fibre to clean it. A large proportion of it is embryonic cotton seeds which have not developed (from which it gets its name) and there is also a fair proportion of bits of cotton seed hulls and extremely short cotton fibre. It is sold by the truckload to spread on lawns as a fertilizer. Placed in a pile, it heats like manure, and quite rapidly decomposes into a very fine humus. Mr. Starr also exhibits the use of all three of the "sand" substances, sand, vermiculite and cinders, in one formula.

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It is quite apparent that an article of this kind is a compilation, and the nominal author only serves as a transcriber and coordinator. This article has really been written by the members of Homing Pigeon Unit Number 6, Mrs. Joseph Hodan, director, who supplied recipes, and the growers of the Atlanta area, who supplied recipes and soil samples.

SOIL RECIPES

(1) H. G. Harvey, Dunwoody, Ga.
1 cup woods dirt
1 cup cow manure (well rotted)
1 cup sand

(2) Boyce M. Edens, Atlanta, Ga.
2 cups leaf mold (well rotted)
2 cups garden soil
1 cup sand

(3) Mrs. Phillip Genntison, Atlanta, Ga.
2 cups woods dirt
1 cup peat moss
1 cup sand
1½ tablespoons commercial sheep manure

(4) Frank Hull, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
1 cup garden loam
1 cup woods dirt
1 cup compost
1 cup sand

In the bottom of a 3" pot put broken crockery, ½ teaspoon charcoal, a little soil; then ½ teaspoonful bone meal and a little more soil. Mix these ingredients, then fill the rest of the pot with soil.

(5) Mrs. Leslie A. Conant, Bay Village, Ohio
2 cups compost
2 cups Kapost
1 cup sand

(6) Mrs. Erla Courtney, Fairhope, Ala.
3 cups woods dirt
1 tablespoon commercial sheep manure

(7) Mrs. Roy Gresham, Atlanta, Ga.
5½ cups wood dirt
5 tablespoons peat moss
3 tablespoons cow manure (well rotted)
2 tablespoonsful superphosphate

(8) Mrs. F. E. Haffenden, Battle Creek, Mich.
5 cups cow manure (well rotted)
½ cup garden soil
½ cup sand

(9) Mrs. Joseph E. Hodan, Cleveland Heights, Ohio
1 cup leaf mold
2 cups garden soil
1 cup cow manure (well rotted)
2 tablespoons superphosphate
2 tablespoons ground limestone
Put charcoal in the bottom of the pot

(10) Mrs. T. C. Bee, Newnan, Ga.
1 cup garden soil
1 cup woods dirt
1 cup cow manure (well rotted)
1 cup vermiculite
1 tablespoon bone meal
1 tablespoon commercial fertilizer

(11) Mrs. Todd Liddell, Atlanta, Ga.
2 cups wood dirt

1 cup sawdust (well rotted)
½ cup sand
½ cup chicken charcoal
½ cup hard wood leaf ashes
1 tablespoon superphosphate

(12) Mrs. G. E. Rhodes, Atlanta, Ga.
1 cup wood dirt
1 cup garden soil
1 cup sawdust (well rotted)
¾ cup chicken charcoal
1½ tablespoons special fertilizer
The special fertilizer is made up as follows:
7 tablespoons superphosphate
7 tablespoons bone meal
4 tablespoons tobacco dust
2 tablespoons cotton seed meal
1 tablespoon Esminel
1 tablespoon ground limestone

(13) Mrs. Sue Westbrook, Atlanta, Ga.
6 cups wood dirt
1½ cups peat moss
1 cup sand
1 cup chicken charcoal
6 tablespoons bone meal
3 tablespoons superphosphate
3 tablespoons commercial sheep manure
1½ tablespoons Fermate

(14) Mrs. Frank Pochurek, Cleveland, Ohio
9 cups garden soil
3 cups cow manure (well rotted)
3 cups corn ensilage (well rotted)
Sterilize with chemical sterilizer, screen through a coarse screen. Then add:
3 cups sand
1 cup peat moss
1 cup Perlite
3½ tablespoons Activo
2 tablespoons fish emulsion

(15) V. S. Starr, Atlanta, Ga.
5 cups leaf mold (well rotted)
1 cup garden soil
1 cup peat moss
1 cup cotton mote (well rotted)
1 cup vermiculite
1 cup cinders (screened through ⅜" mesh)
1 cup sand
1 cup cow manure (well rotted)
½ cup charcoal
¼ cup bone meal

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YELLOW BROWN GIRL

I am little YELLOW BROWN GIRL who has created so much comment from my African violet collectors. I came into the African violet world about five years ago. I was not glamorous enough to receive any attention, not even a name, just a number -- 34. As I grew older, there were many people who saw me and wanted to take me home, however I just went into several seasons of reproduction only to be discarded when I did not improve. My keeper thought it would be better to hold me for a while longer, using me for hybridizing, and when he finally discovered that I could produce something with a tint yellow, he thought it would be to the advantage of my family to give everybody that was interested a chance to reproduce me.

It was called to his attention that the most popular plants at the African Violet Convention at Dayton last year was the "freak" and out of the ordinary relatives, even some that did not exactly reproduce themselves true to form. I have always run true to form, in spite of the fact that I have been called white, dirty white, and "so called Yellow." I was described exactly as I am and checking my color with the Official Color Chart put out by Maer's & Paul, used by patent office for establishing colors, I will still be a Pyrite Yellow, which is official.

This African violet was a seedling of Mr. R. G. Baxter that Mary Meads discovered at the time she was working for him. It was through her interest in this variety that it was kept in repeated production which she still considers, with all the comments pro and con, a worthy contribution to the African violet future. . .

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Cont. from Page 13

These bacteria exist in colonies made up of millions of individuals, whereas the fungus mat may have all grown from a single reproductive cell and is a single individual plant.

The bacteria are an amazing group of plants. Their survival and persistence depends on the power to live and multiply under a number of adverse conditions. They can double their number every twenty minutes, or cease growth and go into what seems to be a state of suspended animation, in this state surviving cold so intense as to liquify gases, extreme drought prolonged for many years, and heat so intense as to coagulate blood, high pressure and high vacua.

These are the creatures with which man has to contend. The plant parasitic bacteria are mostly rod-shaped, motile, and gain entrance through a wound or a natural opening. They are specific in that only one particular kind of bacterium causes one particular kind of disease.

Most plant diseases are caused by fungi, one group causing smuts, another group rusts, another mildews. Smuts are the black powdery masses of spores (one-celled) (reproductive structures) you get when you break an ear of corn attacked by the smut fungus. Rusts are found on stems and leaves of grains such as wheat. Mildews grow on jellies and bacteria can't attack because of the presence of too much sugar, and will also grow on old shoes, books and clothing. Molds, which is a general term for a great number of those fungi, are also beneficial to man. A mold called penicillium notatum makes the antibiotic penicillin. Penicillium roquefortii makes roquefort cheese, Penicillium camembertii makes camembert cheese, another mold makes citric acid which replaced the whole citrus fruit growing industry of Italy before the last war.

The Germans having no source of oil, found a fungus that, when fed sugar, changed it into oil, thus giving them a supply. These molds are made up of filaments large enough to be seen with the naked eye.

Fungi enter a flowering plant through a break in the epidermis or by digesting a way through, once inside they ramify throughout the plant or are confined to a particular part and here absorb nutrient from the plant cells, thus weakening or destroying it.

Fungi reproduce in various ways. The common non-sexual way is by the terminal cells at ends of the filaments to round up and break off; each with the power of producing a new mold.

Viruses also cause plant diseases. These agents are extremely small. Tobacco mosaic virus, which causes a disease of tobacco in which spots appear on the leaf, occurs as needle-shaped crystals. The size of these crystals are 1/2,000,000 of an inch by 1/200,000 of an inch. The true nature and structure of viruses are in general unknown. Whether viruses are living entities or not is also unknown. Obviously if they are crystals they are non-living. Some, however, seem to be living bodies, others crystals, still others protein molecules. We must redefine our conception of life if we are to include them.

Viruses can exist only in living organisms. Here they reproduce, which is a function of living matter only. They are carried from one plant to another by insects or other animals, man included.

Nematodes differ especially from bacteria, fungi and viruses in that that they are animals. They vary greatly in size but the smaller ones may be 1/50 of an inch in diameter up to 1/10 of an inch long. Large numbers of them are free-living, while others closely related are parasitic in plants and insects. Nematodes are worms. Some occuring in animals attain a length of several feet. We are familiar with the nematode that causes trichinosis in man when he eats uncooked pork that contains the cysts of the worm, also with the nematode causing hookworm in man.

Some nematodes attack leaves and stems of plants, others the roots. Some can live only on living plants and are called obligate parasites, others can exist on plants living or dead and are called semi-parasites, still others can get their nutrients only from dead plants and are called saprophytes.

In some cases it may be necessary for nematodes to wound the surface of the plant before bacteria and fungi can gain entrance.

Hoping this is interesting enough, and that the African Violet Society will be benefited by this investigation.

Most sincerely,

Austin Ford

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(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

HOMING PIGEON

Dear Members:

I would like to thank all of you who have taken the time to write me your hints, even though you may not be members of a Pigeon unit. It is impossible to thank you all personally, so will thank you through my column. Many of the hints I have received have been used in earlier columns, so of course cannot be used again.

Before this magazine reaches you, another wonderful convention will be just a memory. At the moment, however, I am looking forward to renewing the many old friendships and meeting the many new members. Isn't it going to be fun . . . or I should say, "wasn't it fun?"

Your Hint Editor,
Helen Pochurek

Leaves coming through the mail often need freshening up after their journey. Put a damp towel in the bottom of a casserole or roaster. Place leaves on the towel and cover casserole tightly. Set in a warm place overnight. By morning, they will be fresh and crisp. I never lose a leaf, no matter how far they are shipped.
Mrs. Sue Smith, Wellington, Kansas.

Special Pin Money Unit 1.
The violets I have in fancy pots and dishes without drainage, do best when planted in Black Magic.
Mrs. Sue Smith, Wellington, Kansas.

HELEN POCHUREK
14225 McCracken Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

I use a pointed medicine dropper to water tiny seedlings. It is also most useful for picking up that drop of water that often lands in the center of the crown by mistake.
Mrs. J. E. Cochran, Neodesha, Kansas.

One teaspoon of Phosphoric Acid in 5 gallons of water helps plants to bloom.
Ethel Thalheimer, Long Beach, Cal., Unit 85.

A window sprayer makes a fine sprayer for African violets. It is less messy than other types and can be handled with one hand.
Helen MacMahon, Macedonia, Ohio.

Try plastic bread boxes, designed to hold a loaf of bread as a miniature greenhouse. They hold a number of small pots and are fine to use after transplanting small plants.
Jean Kopac, Maple Heights, Ohio.

Plastic refrigerator egg boxes are fine for starting leaves. Each egg compartment takes a leaf, set in a mixture of peat and vermiculite. A few holes made in the top helps ventilation. Leaves will root very quickly.
Mrs, Floyd Lewis, Pownal, Vermont.

I use a 'Stoppette' container (a deodorant) to hold Fermate. The top can be pried off the empty container very easily, which I then fill with Fermate. A slight pressure puts the Fermate just where I want it. I like it better than any thing else I have used for the purpose.
Dorothy Grey, Detroit, Mich.

Don't discard seedlings until after they have bloomed at least twice. Very often, the second or third blooming will be far superior to the first blooms.
Your Hint Editor

To keep plants watered during a few days absence, place plants on pieces of fire brick set in pans. Water to the top of brick and plants will be kept moist, yet not set in water.
Jane Jackson, Cleveland, Ohio.

Homing Pigon
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AFRICAN VIOLET MOST FLORIFEROUS

Cont. from Page 19

room! Maybe bathrooms do need some color and inspiration.

A younger brother of one of the violet collectors said, "When I find African violet leaves in my salad, I'll move away from home."

Another violet fancier wondered why her bed felt scratchy. She found some vermiculite in the sheets. She had forgotten to wash her hands before she went to bed. This all proves that many home gardeners are vitally interested in making their African violets grow and produce blooms.

Recently we offered free culture pamphlets on KTTV Garden Chats 2 p. m. program. We were swamped with requests for that pamphlet.

African violets are not hard to grow. If you can grow a geranium, you can likewise grow an African violet plant indoors, and furthermore, make it bloom! Here's all you need to do—

1. . . provide lots of light. Plant can set in east, west, or south exposure window. Put it at least a foot in, from the window. Pull the window shade down if sun starts to shine directly on the plant. Window shade should be down, just enough to cut off direct sunlight, but allow indirect light to swirl around the plant.

2. . . quarter-turning plant once a week helps it to grow evenly on all sides of the pot.

3. . . give plant proper watering. Some violet fanciers water plants from the top of the soil. Do not wet the leaves or leaf stalks as you water the plants. Many other growers prefer to set pot in saucer or a bowl, and let the plant drink up the water through the hole of the pot bottom. Water only as plants need it. Too much water will cause plant to go soft, eventually rot off. Too little water will cause leaves to wilt. Check moisture content of soil by feeling the soil with your finger. If soil feels powdery, plant is needing a drink of water. If soil feels sticky, it has enough moisture for the time being.

4. . . periodic feeding is important. Simplest and easiest way is to put a teaspoonful of 6-10-4 commercial fertilizer to quart milk bottle of water. Soak overnight. Next morning stir several times. Give the violet a drink of this diluted material before the undissolved fertilizer particles have settled in the bottom of the milk bottle. This form of feeding gently nourishes the violets over a longer period of time, because the undissolved particles will gradually dissolve as you give the plant regular drinks of water!

5. . . proper circulation of air is a necessary factor for successful African violet culture. Plants won't tolerate direct drafts, or damp air.

6. . . pinch out secondary growths as they develop. This pinching out causes plant to stay one crowned. In turn plants bloom better and more freely.

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Through error these were left off the list published in the March issues.

Editor

S. ORBICULARIS

Cont. from Page 21

The following description of **Saintpaulia orbicularis, B. L. Burtt** has been adapted from the original description found in the herbarium of the Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew, England and an article by B. L. Burtt in Gardners' Chronical (London), ser. 3, 122, 123 (1947):

"Calyx small, deeply 5 lobed, lobes 4 mm. long, linear, hairy; color dull brown. Corolla wide campulate, averaging 25 mm. in diameter, lobes unequal, margins hairy; color upper side almost pure white but with a violet-blue ring around the yellow anther-cells; under side of lobes white sometimes with a light violet-blue middle vein. Peduncle basal, 4-10 flowered, length 2 to 6 inches long; dull brown, densely hairy. Measurements of average corolla lobes: -- Lower center lobe 15 mm. long by 10 mm. wide; lateral lobes 11 mm. long by 9 mm. wide, upper pair 8 mm. long by 6 mm. wide and separated for half their length. A stemless species. Leaves basal, many, long petioled, ovate, acute crenate, minute short hairs on upper side, under side glabrous except for vein tracts which are slightly hairy. Alternate veining. Leaves sap green on upper side, greenish white on under side. Leaf texture thin; great variation in size of leaves; petioles dull red brown, hairy; lighter green when older. Leaf measurements vary from 35-65 mm. long by 33-67 mm. wide. Habit: growing on wet rocks (gneiss) beside a waterfall at 4,000 ft. Locality: -- Sakarre near Bungu Mission, Ambangulu.

Its Latin description is: -- "**Saintpaulia orbicularis, B. L. Burtt**, sp. nov., foliis orbicularis basi cordatis inflorescentiis plurifloris, floribus pallidioribus distinguitur."

The color of **S. orbicularis** has since been observed to vary under different environmental conditions from almost white to a light blue. Sometimes the ring in the center of the corolla is absent. Occasionally, the faint violet blue veins on the under side of the corolla lobes are too faint to be noticed. Sometimes the tips of the lobes appear to be washed with a violet blue color. Another observation, perhaps, also due to differences in environmental condition is the form of the base of young leaves. Many can be found with auriculate or ear-shaped projections at their bases.

Although its flowers are small and slightly cupped inward (campanulate) it is one of the most productive of the species regarding its flowers. This fact together with its dark ring and upright habit of growth makes it one of the most distinctive plants of either the species or varieties. In passing it may also be noted that it matures its seed very quickly.

Mr. Harvey Cox (California) was first to introduce **Saintpaulia orbicularis** into the U. S. A. The date of its introduction is 1951.

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WHEN IN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS — VISIT OUR VIOLET GREENHOUSES

COUSIN STREPTOCARPUS

Cont. from Page 9

POTTING, COMPOST AND FEEDING

The Streptocarpus responds best to a slightly acid soil that is rich in leaf mold -- well decomposed Bermuda loam at least 2 years old is said to be fine. This of course is not available everywhere! A good potting medium may be made from: 2 parts leaf mold, 1 part acid peat and 1 part sharp sand.

Completely renew the soil in the pot once each year from January 15th to February 15th. Remove the plant from the pot and most gently shake the soil from the roots of the plant. Repot in new soil mixture in a clean pot. This will not injure the plant if reasonable care is observed. A moist well drained soil is best -- do not plant in a heavy soil mixture as a soggy soil is injurious to the Streptocarpus.

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Ferne for African Violets

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These interesting plants may be planted out of doors in the summer time in the flower bed if the same care is taken as for Saintpaulias planted out of doors. They do better as a pot plant however, and give better bloom.

When the plants begin to form buds feed with a complete fertilizer once each week . . . in the amount of 1 teaspoonful to a gallon of water. They will not give best results unless grown in complete shade and they will stand more cold than they are credited with. If grown in the greenhouse they should be removed when hot weather comes if they cannot be kept reasonably cool and evenly moist.

From these notes I have grown many plants and would like to add a little of my own experience with these lovely plants. Do check back to the sentence, "Three year old specimen plants will reach a spread of 24 to 30 inches with up to 100 blossoms if they are properly cared for." Do you wonder that my interest was kindled and I determined to get some of these lovely things?

The best seeds of hybrids come from England and after receiving an English catalog I found listed, "Peads hybrid Streptocarpus seed." I sent for some and followed the directions as best I could -- without the Bermuda loam of course -- I had tried previously the S. rexi as they were the only seeds I could find listed of the Streptocarpus. These new seeds grew well and I was most happy.

My regular African violet soil has proven very satisfactory and seems to suit them. From the seed I had good plants -- they grew well and began to flower in about a year from the time I first planted the seed. Small plants with only 1 or 2 leaves produced for the first time a stalk with 2 blooms. As the plants aged and grew more leaves there were more bloom stalks. Some of the 3 and 4 year olds had 4 and 5 bloom stalks at one time with 2 and 3 blooms to the stalk. As these died more would come to take their place . . .so that the plant was never without some bloom.

From our test plantings we have selected a few plants to introduce that have proven themselves worthy of cultivation. Our spring Gesneriad List includes new items such as Episcia tessellata the yellow-flowered episcia, and other choice new plants. For plant connoisseurs, we also have a list of rare and exotic Tropical Foliage Plants.

Fantastic Gardens

R. G. Wilson, 9550 S. W. 67th Avenue **South Miami 43, Florida**

Although the first blooms were most pleasing and stimulated my further interest -- it was in the third year that I realized what beautiful plants they were and what a welcome addition they were for the shaded green house. The African violet house was ideal for them . . . but they prefer the coolest spot in the place. The blossoms seem to droop when they get too warm, so I have placed them on a ground bed in the greenhouse and they like this very much!

There was a nice variation in color from this planting. Pure glistening white, light and deep pink, a light and a deep violet (purple to me) and a deep red violet. They all have either white or yellow throats with some shading out into the blossom proper. The blossoms are funnel shaped and average 3 inches in length and 2½ inches across when fully open. They are quite narrow at the base then flaring out with 5 petals -- the 2 upper petals are somewhat shorter than the lower 3. Each flower remains in bloom for about two weeks. One pale mauve beauty outclasses them all for size, with 4 inch long and 4½ inch wide flowers . . . it does have a weak stem however that the smaller blossoms do not have.

The mature leaves are quite long, about 3 inches wide and taper to a point. They are medium green in color and have a rough texture. As the new foliage is produced some of the older leaves turn yellow and should be removed from the plant.

I read in another article recently that Streptocarpus would reach a leaf spread of 30 inches in England where they have been cultivated several years. When writing this story I decided to measure my plants and see how the leaves and blossoms of mine compared with their English relatives and I was quite surprised to find that three of mine had a 25 inch leaf spread, but sadly lacking was the 100 blooms described . . . Perhaps I will make the English record yet! ! I will try —

The plants that have flowered the best for me are growing in 5 inch pots. I have placed one in a larger pot and to date it has produced many fine leaves but it has not had as many blossoms as the plants in the smaller pots. Another year may tell another story . . . and then too they may have to be pot bound to produce heavy bloom.

Streptocarpus do need to be kept evenly moist all the time. For this reason they love a cool damp greenhouse. I have grown them in an east window in the house where they did quite well and flowered satisfactorily. They seem to need much more water in the window than the Saintpaulia demands. Do not let them dry out too dry as it is very damaging to the tender feeder roots.

They have propagated easily for me from leaf cuttings. Just pull the leaf out of the plant and place it in vermiculite or your favorite African violet growing medium. They grow young plants in the same manner at the base of the leaf as a violet does. From 4 to 5 plants may be produced from a single leaf cutting -- since this is as rapid an increase as I desire I have not divided my plants or cut them in pieces.

More from a lack of time than anything else . . . I have not tried the repotting schedule recommended in my early notes. This can be added to the long list of "must do's" for the coming winter. No doubt renewing the soil would add to the general well being of my plants.

The Streptocarpus becomes more or less dormant in the wintertime. My plants do not flower very much -- just an occasional blossom now and then, but come spring and summer and the show starts -- their heaviest crop of blooms is displayed at this time.

I cannot close this story on Streptocarpus without telling you about the nice gentleman who visited me one summer and on looking through the greenhouse and admiring my plants noticed the Streptocarpus. He said, What is that?" And when I answered with it's name, "Streptocarpus." "OH NO! he said," Don't you know -- that means a sore throat!"

So the beautiful flower, with the terrible name -- Streptocarpus -- I am recommending to you. If you are looking for something new, something lovely, something that does not require too much attention, try a Streptocarpus -- (hybrids preferred).

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NUTRITION OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET

Cont. from Page 34

plant response in the A pots. Finally, after a suggestion by Professor Charles Sherwood that the A pots might be the most important it was decided to attempt to correlate the values obtained in the A pots alone. These results are given in graphs I, II and III.

In May the entire experiment was moved to another part of the greenhouse and more shade was supplied. This caused the light green plants to deepen in color even though no nitrogen was supplied at this time. No further additions of nutrients were made during May, June and July and tests of soil and plant tissue were made in August. As might be expected nitrates were completely exhausted in most pots. Phosphorus was still present in all pots but the amount was considerably reduced. It was not determined whether the plants or the soil fixed the most phosphorus. Potash was absent in about 20% of the pots and present in the others. However, presence or absence of potash made no noticeable difference in the appearance of the plants. During the summer both leaf and flower development were reduced due to the increasing difficulty of obtaining available nutrients, especially nitrates.

Tissue testing was begun on August 10 using the Simplex Soil Testing Outfit as recommended by Dr. Ray Cook (5). The problem was to discover which portion of the plant would show a test for the nutrients under consideration. Preliminary tests were conducted using healthy, vigorous plants which seemed to be well nourished.

It was found that the petiole of the leaf would give a test for nitrates when the blade did not. Furthermore, when nitrates became limiting in the plant, petioles from young leaves in the center of the plant showed the presence of nitrates when older petioles from the outer whorls of leaves did not.

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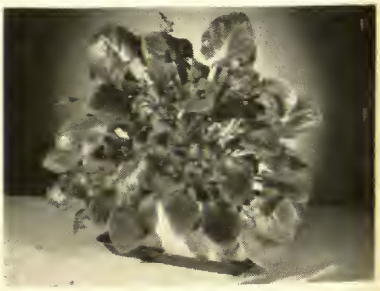

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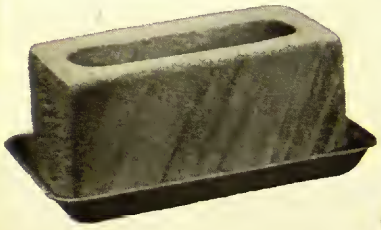

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The petioles would seldom give a positive test for phosphorus. For this nutrient the best samples were taken from the tip one-fourth of the leaf blade and old leaves gave more positive tests than new leaves.

Potash was found so seldom that little definite could be determined concerning its location in the plant. The lower portion of the leaf blade plus the base of the midrib may give a better test than other tissues but this was not definitely proven.

There is some question of the value of tissue testing because these tests prove only the presence of uncombined nitrates and phosphorus. A negative test will show that there is no "luxury consumption" by the plant but may not prove actual nutrient starvation.

Most of the healthy plants tested as outlined above showed high nitrates, low to medium phosphorus and blank (or rarely low) potash present in the tissues.

In general, the plants which had received no nutrients during the summer showed low phosphorus and gave blank tests for nitrates and potash. There were ten plants, however, which tested medium to high for nitrates in the tissues and in all cases the soil tests showed 10 ppm. or less of both nitrates and phosphorus. The soil tests were as follows when the plants tested high in nitrogen in the tissue:

NO_3	P	K	NO_3	P	K
0	0.5	10	2	0.5	0
0	1	10	2	1	0
0	2.5	40	2	2.5	60
0	2.5	100	5	1	0
0	10	20	10	1	5

Concluded in Sept. African Violet Magazine

Ordinary FlowerPots become Self-Watering

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1 Atlas Glaswik and black plastic saucer .45c (3 for $1.25).
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These flower trees are available in three heights:

36" high, 9" from floor to lower tray, 9" between trays
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42" high, 15" from floor to lower tray, 9" between trays
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Also comes in SOLID WOOD with beautiful WALNUT or MAHOGANY finish, as in photo at right. 42" high. Trays rotate freely, but do not hold water like the aluminum trees.
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Famous CERAMO Squatty Pots. Used and recommended by Florists. Of dark red clay, with excellent porosity. Specially treated edges help prevent sloughing off of leaves.

8	4-in. pots	$2.00
6	5-in. pots	2.00
10	3-in. pots	2.00

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G-Q

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You would also discover that not one of these thousands of plants is growing in soil. All have lived their entire lives in Vermiculite, with Gro-Quickr nutrient solution their only food.

For germinating seed and leaf cuttings, gentle bottom heat is supplied by Gro-Quick seed bed heating cables. Fluorescent lights furnish most of the light for the growing plants, since many of them are growing in a basement.

In the bottom of each pot you will find an aerating pad of G-Q Fiberglas. All the larger plants are growing in plastic pots and are fed by G-Q Fiberglas capillary wicks.

The Gro-Quick method of African violet propagation and culture is not entirely original with us. Its demonstrable success is the result of experimentation with the best features of several outstanding growers and combining them in a way to make it simpler and easier for the average person to grow African violets.

Frankly, we were never successful at raising violets in soil. We tried it for years. We "followed the book." But we were never quite satisfied, either as to the growth or bloom.

But within a few weeks after repotting some of our old plants in vermiculite we were rewarded with a wealth of bloom. And they continue to bloom profusely -- as all good African violets should. Many hundreds of our customers, neighbors, club members and friends have tried our method and say they will never go back to soil culture and the mess that goes with it.

The GRO-QUICK Culture System is Simple, Sure, Practical, Clean

You realize, of course, that vermiculite alone is not the answer to all the problems that face the serious African violet fancier. Improper watering, stale air or lack of ventilation, too little light, low humidity and extremes of temperature are all important.

The Gro-Quick system, therefore, combines many things, all of which contribute to successful growing -- vermiculite. G-Q Fiberglas wicks and aerating pads, special wick-fed pots, G-Q heating cables and thermostats, sprays, water pourers and the time-tested G-Q nutrient solution.

It's the combination that counts. It's the combination that insures beautiful, healthy violets with less care and attention. It's the combination that lets you throw away your old unsightly pots, soil mixture and fertilizers. So stop coddling and fussing. Start the Gro-Quick system and watch your thumb turn green.

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- The roots are larger, stronger, and will stand shipping shock much better.
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- Cuttings are packed with G-Q Fiberglas, that can be re-used for wicks and aerating pads.
- Detailed, illustrated instructions on dividing, potting, etc., are included.
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All cuttings come to you properly labeled. Preserve their identity by using markers on every pot.

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White plastic. Easily marked. Use over and over again. 4½" long. 100 for $1.00, postpaid.

HERE ARE TWO BIG GET ACQUAINTED SAMPLE OFFERS

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3" Size	3½" Size	4½" Size
3 for $.90	3 for $1.20	3 for $1.45
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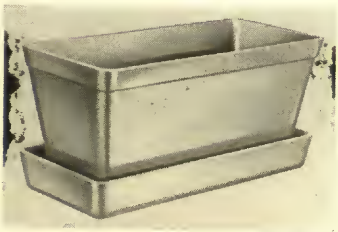

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Many successful growers consider wick feeding a "must." Pots do not tip easily. Visible water supply is a great convenience. Your choice of red, green, yellow or bronze.

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Zones	thru 3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
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2 lb.	1.10	1.15	1.21	1.28	1.34	1.41
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The pot must be supported OVER the water, and the water level should not be above the bottom of the pot for more than a few hours.

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INEXPENSIVE --

30 ft. roll, 3" wide ..... only $1.00 postpaid
Makes 240 glass wicks or 120 aerating pads.

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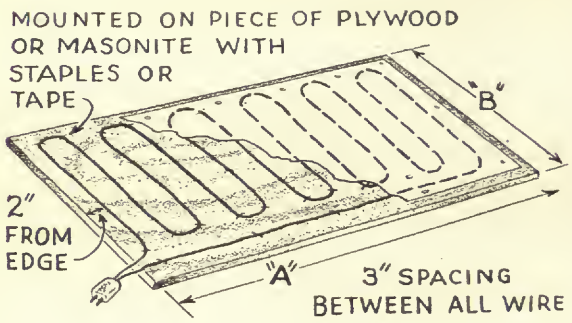

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Determine number of square feet to be heated and select cables you need. One thermostat will control several cables. Instructions with order.

A6	15 watts	1½ sq. ft.	$1.00
B12	30 "	3 " "	1.80
M26	60 "	6 " "	2.80
P40	100 "	9 " "	2.80
J56	140 "	14 " "	3.00
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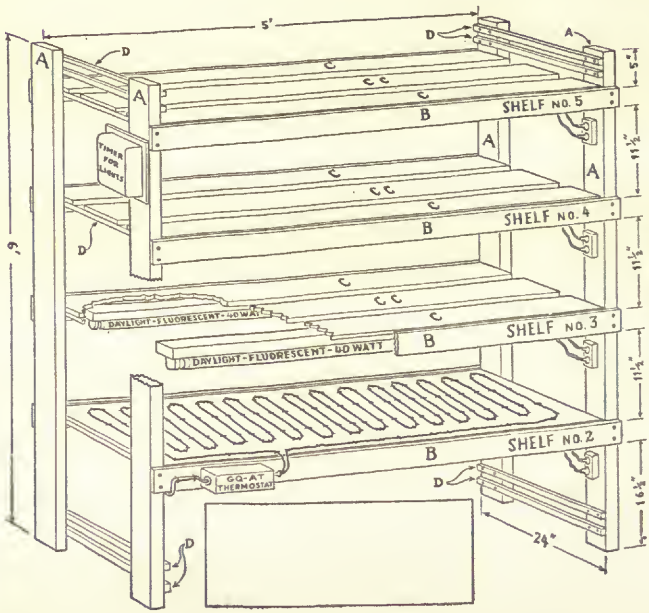
AT thermostat, will handle 1,000 watts, $4.50

Above Prices Postpaid

We carry a complete range of cables from $1.00 size to large, heavy duty cables for large, commercial installations.



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GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS WITH 300 F. C.

Cont. from Page 20

It all started as a decorative touch, with a few African violet plants on one window shelf. Their lovely foliage and cheerful blooms were so attractive that we soon added more shelves, and then -- filled more windows. First, my husband cut glass shelves from an old windshield but, after cutting his finger on their ragged edges, he ordered shelves from the glass store. Soon he was ordering five shelves (one window full) at a time -- and grumbling each time.

I had been buying blooming plants, with an occasional small plant, until I saw Lady Geneva. She was so pert and lovely, the first banded violet I had seen, but the dealer refused to sell one because she did not have a patent license. However, after much teasing, she weakened and "gave" me a leaf with instructions for rooting and growing. I was so excited over "growing my own," that I started taking leaves from my plants and rooting them in bread tins. After two weeks, and no signs of little plants, the grouchy male suggested tossing them out. Then one day a few green specks appeared. How those little babies pushed up! The now interested male, started speculating which leaf would become the next parent and solicitously watching each plantlet's growth. Actually, he measured them with a ruler, as he now measures the blossoms with half and silver dollar pieces. It was real fun to "watch the babies grow." We thrilled to each new leaf and bud stalk as it opened.

In the meantime the plants, in the windows, were also growing and beginning to crowd for space -- but by now it was easier to obtain new shelves, from the no longer grumbling male. Along about Easter time we had a lot of small duplicate plants growing up, and we were wondering which ones we would have to throw away, when a friend suggested selling the surplus. They were quickly sold, through a small ad in the local paper, and only the lack of window space curbed my desire to grow and sell more of these fascinating plants.

Later, on a vacation trip, we spied a huge cluster of greenhouses with a magic name -- "Fischers." We just had to stop and take a peek! Several hours were spent with Paul Rockelmann, their hybridizer, admiring the many new varieties they were developing and gaining much valuable information. Mr. Rockelmann suggested that we use artificial light to supplant our window deficiency. Previously, we had used a bridge lamp, to set bud stalks in a few stubborn plants, with gratifying results. So, when we drove away, the car was loaded with new violets. All the way home we kept wondering where to keep them until we obtained suitable lighting. The first thing was to unpack and care for them. We stopped at a Five and Dime Store and bought cookie trays to place on a bed, in the guest room, with a bridge lamp on each side of the bed for light. The next morning we started visiting other violet lovers, who were using artificial light, to learn all we could regarding lamp culture. What we saw was disappointing. Many plants were rank and leggy, due to low light intensity. The lamps hung too high (as later experiments disclosed), in an attempt to cover a large number of plants.

Now my research training asserted itself. We turned for information to the experts; lamp manufactuers, Cornell and Ohio State Universities and, the local utility company. An obliging light engineer from the utility company furnished technical information regarding the number and spacing of fixtures to flood-light given areas. A front parlor was immediately turned into a "Violet Room" with a battery of fluorescent lamps, hung from the ceiling and adjustable with counter weights so we could measure light intensity at various lamp distances from the flower-pot tops. This battery of lamps grouped under one large reflector, raised the foot candle power and greatly increased the light intensity over the area, saving, in our case, the expense of two extra fixtures. Three standard flat fixtures with dual 40 watt bulbs eliminated fringe areas and furnished ample growing and conditioning light for the entire bed, which is five feet wide by six feet long. A light meter soon determined the correct height of the lamps from the flower pots. for best results. Further experiments disclosed the number of lamps required for different bed areas and different height elevations for various growing conditions. We now have five violet beds, under adjustable fluorescent lamps, to accommodate different conditioning and growing requirements. We are also installing single fluorescent valance-lamps above some of the windows, to correct the limited winter-light conditions in these particular windows.

Experience has shown that ample light intensity can be easily and cheaply obtained with fluorescent lamps. The advantages in favor of artificial light, when used ten to twelve hours daily at 300 foot candle intensity, seem tremendous: We are free from the ill effects of either limited or excessive sunshine, the violets grow and blossom rapidly, they grow symmetrical, the leaves have more luster and sheen, the humidity condition is more stable because of the quantity of plants in one area, they consume less care-time because plants do not reach for the light and do not require continual turning to grow symmetrical and compact, strong healthy plants offer more resistance to attacking enemies, plants also adjust more rapidly to house conditions when brought in from greenhouses and, when they are removed from under the lamps they suffer no set-backs.

What began as a small decorative touch, has now "blossomed" commercially into Naomi's African Violet Rooms; but, if we only had one plant -- instead of the hundreds we now enjoy -- we would certainly place that one under a lamp, at least a portion of the time, to secure maximum results.

Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd. St.
Perry, Iowa.

HASTINGS NEBRASKA

The Hastings African Violet Club of Hastings, Nebraska, celebrated their first birthday in February. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month in the City Council Chambers except when invited to homes of members. The club has a membership of twenty-five charter members and three new members.

Last May they held their first exhibit, and other activities were; a breakfast held in Heartwell Park in August, and a Christmas party.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Harry Mills
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Garth Osterhout
Secretary,	Mrs. C. J. Pedersen
Treasurer,	Mrs. F. W. Dinnell
Reporter,	Mrs. Celia Nuss

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

The first meeting of the Rainbow African Violet Club of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was held at the home of Mrs. Opal Sullivan on January 17, 1952. This is the second club to organize in Fort Wayne.

Officers elected for the coming year are:

President,	Mrs. Opal Sullivan
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. E. W. Longfellow
Secretary,	Mrs. F. R. McLain
Treasurer,	Mrs. O. D. Goddard
Publicity and Historian	Mrs. C. R. Rodez

CUMBERLAND COUNTY NEW JERSEY

The Cumberland County African Violet Society of New Jersey, was organized in December 1951, and has a membership of twenty. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in the members homes.

The following officers were elected for 1952:

President,	Mrs. Ellen Peck
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Anna Neileib
Secretary,	Mrs. Emma Davenport
Treasurer,	Mrs. Pearl Seabrook

The club project for 1952 is to see how well each member can grow plants from a leaf of Blue Boy. The means of planting is to be discussed at an early meeting and all are to use the same method.

LINCOLN NEBRASKA

Lincoln African Violet Society of Lincoln Nebraska, was organized April 21, 1951. This is the first and only violet club in Lincoln.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Byford Pattison
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. W. McGraw
Secy. Treas.,	Mrs. Bernice Krieger

At the twentieth annual flower show of the Garden Club of Lincoln held on June 2nd and 3rd of last year, the newly organized violet group was asked to enter a non-competitive display. A total of two hundred and ten plants, with one hundred and ninety varieties, was displayed. They were presented with the "Seal of Recognition of Merit."

Membership now totals twenty nine and the show committee is composed of the officers with one exception. Mrs. Charles Reed was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mrs. C. W. McGraw.

Other newly elected officers are:

Secretary,	Mrs. Loren Nelson
Treasurer,	Mrs. George Erickson

Publicity Chairman is Mrs. George Swingle, editor of the garden column of the Lincoln Morning Star.

CLEVELAND OHIO

The Cleveland Saintpaulia Society, formerly known as the Metropolitan Cleveland African Violet Society, has completed two successful years with Mrs. Frank Pochurek as president. Officers for 1952 are:

President,	Mrs. Joseph Hodan
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Leslie Conant
Secretary,	Mrs. M. H. McMahon
Treasurer,	Mrs. John Held
Librarian-Historian,	Mrs. S. Kiraly
Trustees,	Mrs. Louis Brabander
	Mrs. Frank Pochurek

Membership is limited to thirty-five, all of whom are required to be members of the National Society.

SUPPLIES
for
AFRICAN VIOLET
GROWING

INSECTICIDES

NNOR, Lindane, Sodium Selenate, Kapsulate, Optox, Optox Special, Soilene, Marvel Spray, Detex, and others.

FUNGICIDES

Fermate, Arasan, Anti-Damp. Others.

FERTILIZERS

Hyponex, Electra, NuPhosk, Plant Marvel. Others.

FOR MIXING POTTING SOIL

Bone Meal, Charcoal, Ground Limestone, Hyper Humus, Gypsum, Leaf Mold, Limestone Chips, Peat Moss, Superphosphate.

GLASS WICKING

All sizes and lengths.

OTHER ITEMS

Plastic plant labels, metal foil, Vitamin B^1, pots (clay and plastic), vermiculite, Rootone, plate glass, duPont Garden Products, sprayers.

Patronize local African violet dealers who handle any of these products. The supplies they don't carry are available by mail from me.

Write for Catalogue. If you sell African violets ask for Dealer Price List too.

NEIL C. MILLER
Layton's Lake, R. D.
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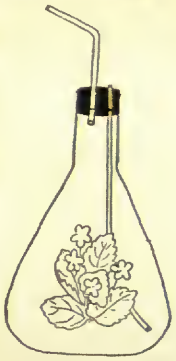
NEW
NO DRIP VIOLET WATERER

Will not drip and spot Leaves is handy to use watering or treating plants with Sodium Selenate or Liquid Plant Food.



Capacity 1 Quart

Violet Painted Design

Order from

ESTHER WHITE
1410 Newton St.
Akron 5, Ohio

Price $2.50

DAVENPORT IOWA

Members of the African Violet Society of America living in Davenport, Iowa, have organized a new club to be known as the Davenport African Violet Society. At present there are sixteen members and meetings are held in the members homes.

Mr. Lyle Resser, an African violet grower from Genneseo, Illinois, was guest speaker at the March meeting.

Officers elected were:

President,	H. E. Niemann
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Paul Ryan
Secy. Treas.,	Miss Lauretta L. Littig

SALT LAKE CITY UTAH

Mrs. Theodore M. Greer of Golden, Colorado, Regional Director of the National African Violet Society, assisted in organizing an African Violet Club in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Officers elected to direct the newly formed club are:

Chairman,	Mrs. L. W. Banks
Vice-Chairman,	Mrs. Rulon Binnion
Sec. Treas.,	Mrs. John Jensen
Hostess,	Mrs. Robert Paul
Telephone,	Mrs. Lyman Kidman

The officers will hold office for a four month period and will work out a program for the club. Members voted to affiliate with the National Society.

SPRINGFIELD PENNSYLVANIA

The African Violet Society of Springfield, Pennsylvania held their election of officers in November. The following were elected:

President,	Mrs. Ralph G. Frye
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Donald Taber
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. William Ester
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. R. B. Carll
Treasurer,	Mrs. W. C. Zachow

A Christmas party was held in the home of Mrs. John Panton, with Mrs. Edward Jones, cohostess. Members exchanged gifts. Candy and cookies were given for the children at the Home for Incurables, Philadelphia. Plants were given for the adults at the Home. The children were given candy for Valentines Day and the adults, flowers for Easter.

Vacationists . . . . stop and visit
MRS. LeROY HUMAN'S
LITTLE AFRICAN VIOLET SHOP
320 Niagara St. North Tonawanda, N. Y.
Our town is located between Buffalo and Niagara Falls on Routes 265, 384 and U. S. Highway 62.

Granger Gardens

offers

Rooted Cuttings

Because of the tremendous response to our other ad we are offering the following rooted cuttings of the newest varieties. The varieties listed below are lovely well developed rooted cuttings. All merchandise is guaranteed to be from the originator and is authentically named.

LADY GENEVA — dark blue blossom -- with sparkling white edge .75

BLUE GIRL SELECT — mottled blue blossom, good girl foliage .75

PINK GIRL — good large pink blossoms, girl foliage .75

FANTASY — lavendar blooms with purple markings .75

DOUBLE ORCHID NEPTUNE — very large double blooms 1.00

PURITY — pure white double 1.00

SAILOR'S DELIGHT — light blue double on girl foliage 1.00

SEA GIRL — medium blue double on girl foliage 1.00

GENEVA RAINBOW — deep red blooms with frosty white edge 1.00

CARMEN — good deep red 1.00

ORCHID SUNSET — beautiful double orchid on good foliage 1.00

SNOW PRINCE — the best white on the market 1.00

VELVET GIRL — petals tips deeply shaded, dark rich orchid 1.00

BLUE HEIRESS — large du Pont blue blooms on girl foliage 1.00

TWILIGHT — white with blue markings on blossom 1.00

PINK SHEEN — white with lavendar pink markings on blossom 1.00

When ordering, please enclose your check or money order and orders under $5.00 please add $.60 for postage and packing. On orders over $5.00 orders will be sent postpaid.

May we suggest that you try our own specially prepared potting soil, not a commercially prepared product, but the same one we grow our plants in. 3 lb. for $1.10 and 5 lb. for $1.65 postpaid. No soil shipped west of the Mississippi. Also Sodium Selenate, three grams for $.50 or six grams for $1.00.

Our aim is to please you above all else by shipping good healthy plants that will reach you in good condition. We are Federally Certified and eligible to ship anywhere. For those who wish to purchase plants, please write for our price list.

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HUGH EYERDOM & SON **RFD No. 1, WADSWORTH, OHIO**

Greenhouses are open from 8:00 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. daily and are located one mile east of the school at Granger, Ohio.

Also open on Sundays and Holidays.

GROWERS HYBRIDIZERS

TINKER BELL - Our new miniature girl introduction for 1952. Oddly convoluted girl foliage with creamy white edging. Medium red flowers borne on tall stems well above the leaves $2.00

SUNSET LANE - Originated by Carolyn Rector, and being introduced by us this year. It makes a large plant like Blue Warrior, but the flowers are a uniform light mauve with no shading $1.50

ENCHANTRESS - A distinctive bicolor with girl foliage. The large airy flowers of lightest pink-mauve are marked at the juncture and tips of the two upper petals with deep wine red $1.50

PLANTS LEAVES SEED

Send for list

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Orlyt GREENHOUSE

This Model

$395.00

Excellent for Growing African Violets or Anything Else You Choose

Made in sections ready for simple assembly with bolts and screws . . . . Easy-to-put-up anywhere, anytime. Orlyt shown 10 by 11 ft. is ready to put on your foundation. Five other basic models including Lean-tos and Greenhouses with straight sides priced from $175 to $780. Automatic heat and ventilation at reasonable prices. Convenient terms available.
Write for Booklet No. 59.

LORD & BURNHAM

IRVINGTON N. Y. DES PLAINES ILL.

JACKSON MICHIGAN

The First African Violet Club of Jackson, Michigan, celebrated their first birthday with a luncheon November 13, 1951, at the home of Mrs. R. S. Preston, club president. Mrs. Leslie McLaury was assistant hostess. After lunch a business meeting was held during which a plant display for April was discussed.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. R. S. Preston
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Jasper Barker
Secretary,	Mrs. D. L. Bowers
Treasurer,	Mrs. E. B. Baker

LANSING MICHIGAN

The Double Ten African Violet Club of Lansing Michigan, held its last meeting of the season on December 19, 1951. The club was just one year old and much progress has been made in the raising of Saintpaulia from seed, and leaf propagation.

Election of officers was held and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President,	Mrs. Marion Olson
Vice-Pres.,	Doris Nichols
Secretary,	Maude Canfield
Treasurer,	Wilma Hopkins

A vote of thanks was given the retiring president, Helen Potruff, for her splendid work in organizing and working for the interests of the club.

WEBSTER GROVES MISSOURI

On January 17, 1951, the members of the Webster Groves, Missouri, African Violet Society met for a luncheon meeting with Mrs. L. E. Koenig as hostess. Mrs. C. F. Schroeder gave a talk on "Look Alikes."

Election of officers was held with the following officers to begin their duties in March:

President,	Mrs. W. F. Moch
Vice-Pres. & Program Chm.,	Mrs. W. R. Stevens
Treasurer,	Mrs. W. L. Paulus
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. M. A. Renick
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. R. A. Duncan

At the March meeting with Mrs. G. W. Chambers, retiring president, as hostess, the officers will be installed. The members of the Viking African Violet Club, the second club to be organized in Webster Groves, will be the guests. Dr. Gustav Mehlquist, Research Horticulturist at the Missouri Botanical Garden will speak on "Control of Diseases and Insects."

The May 15, 1952, meeting will be with Mrs. R. A. Duncan and will feature a report of the Highlights of the National Convention.

Plans are well under way for a show to be held on April 5-6. The Viking and Normandy clubs will also participate in the show.

Exciting New Varieties

IMMEDIATE delivery of fresh cut leaves

Save money -:- watch the babies grow.

Our leaf-cuttings are from strong, healthy, stock-plants free from pests. Each leaf is labeled with its correct name, and separately sealed to maintain its freshness. A packet of special chemical is included with all shipments, to prevent leaf-rot before rooting and, to assure your success. Shipments are by first class mail to insure reaching you quickly and in the best condition — wherever you live. Safe delivery guaranteed anywhere in the United States. Simple growing instructions are included with each order of 10 or more leaves. Our credit reference is the Brockport Office of the Lincoln-Rochester Trust Company, Brockport, N. Y.

GRAND AWARD: The giant of doubles, medium blue, nice foliage $1.00

PINK CHEER: Pictured on front cover. Deep pink, good foliage $1.00

RUFFLED QUEEN: Highly ruffled dark burgundy, du Pont foliage $1.00

THE BALLERINAS: Fischer's new strain of fringed violets . . . . . All six $2.50

MINUET: Mauve
BALLET: White
BOLERO: Velvet blue
POLONAISE: Light blue
SARABAND: Red Lavender
CAROUSEL: Lavendar-blue

S I N G L E S .50¢ per leaf.

APPLE BLOSSOM: Large white with orchid center. du Pont foliage.

BLUE HEIRESS: Giant brilliant blue flower, du Pont girl foliage.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS: Blue and green ball-blossom, shaped like it's name.

GENEVA RAINBOW: White margined burgundy flower. Lady Geneva counterpart.

LACY GIRL: Large dark purple ruffled blooms. Wavy foliage.

OPAL GIRL: Pale opalescent lavender.

PAINTED GIRL: Exciting white flower banded with orchid edges.

PINK DELIGHT: Dainty light clear pink flowers. Dark bronzy foliage.

PURPLE DAWN: Unusual shade of light purple. A profuse bloomer.

PURPLE LACE: Large dark purple ruffled blooms. Good bloomer.

QUEEN BETTY: Pastel pink and white bi-color. Charming, dainty and unusual.

ROSE MARIE: True rose color. Nicely quilted dark foliage.

RUFFLED BEAUTY: Red bi-color. Highly ruffled girl foliage.

SNOW GIRL: Large pure white blossom. Lovely girl foliage.

SNOW PRINCE: Large pure white blossom. Heavy bloomer.

RED LADY: (Ulery) Clear red flower, does not fade. Beautiful girl foliage.

VELVET GIRL: Unusual, pansy shaped, two toned dark garnet and orchid red.

D O U B L E S .50¢ per leaf.

APOLLO: Semi-double very large light blue flowers. Excellent bloomer.

DEBUTANTE: Mauve to pale misty lavender, a sensational shade.

FLUFFY DOUBLE: Variegated blue and white double.

LIGHT BLUE DOUBLE FRINGETTE: Large fringed flowers, wavy foliage.

DARK BLUE DOUBLE FRINGETTE: Large fringed deep blue, wavy foliage.

LIGHT LAVENDER ROSETTE: Large light lavender, free blooming.

MAGNIFICO: Double orchid bi-color -- a new Ulery hybrid.

RAINBOW AZURE BEAUTY: Variegated white and light blue.

RAINBOW DARK BEAUTY: Variegated white and medium blue.

RAINBOW DELIGHT: Striking large light blue double.

RAINBOW ORCHID SUNSET: Large red-orchid flower. Dark green foliage.

RAINBOW PURITY: The first double white.

RAINBOW ROSE: White edged or suffused with rose.

SAILOR'S DELIGHT: Light blue double flowers. Girl foliage.

SEA GIRL: Medium dark blue. Girl foliage.

TEAR DROP: The baby of doubles. Profusion of small light blue flowers.

On orders under $5.00 please add 60¢ for packaging and postage. Orders of $5.00 and over will be mailed postpaid.

NAOMI'S AFRICAN VIOLET ROOMS

141 HOLLEY STREET BROCKPORT, N. Y.

NOTE: Plants in all sizes sold at the Rooms, but not shipped.

KANSAS CITY SHOW

The African Violet Society of Greater Kansas City, Missouri, held their second annual show in the Little Theater of the Municipal Auditorium on February 23 and 24, 1952. An estimated 3,500 visitors attended.

The Little Theater was specially lighted for the show to bring out the delicate variance in colors. Many new varieties of African violets were shown.

An educational exhibit on the propagation and care of plants was under the direction of a husband and wife team, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Seever.

A special table, showing interesting ways of using violets in appropriate containers for each month of the year, was designed by Mrs. E. F. Dunlap and Mrs. Fred Walkenhorst.

There were twenty competitive divisions with the Sweepstakes award being won by Mrs. George Pendleton.

Mrs. J. R. Bush of Muncie, Kansas, won the tricolors for the best plant in the show. This was a specimen plant of Double Neptune.

Mrs. R. Milton Cochran became the first grower in America to win the National African Violet Society's new gold ribbon award for a top collection of three named varieties each to score 90 or better.

DETROIT MICHIGAN

The Detroit Garden Center sponsored an African Violet Clinic on the afternoon of November 14, 1951. Mrs. Dorothy Gray, president of the Border Cities African Violet Club was chairman.

The features of the afternoon were the "Hospital and Pharmacy" table. Mrs. Gray illustrated removing suckers from plants, how to re-root old plants, and how to recognize and control mite, thrip and mealy bug.

Mrs. S. Bouton, Director of the Garden Centre, used the propagating table to demonstrate her way of propagating leaves. An example of "pot in the pan" was shown.

Mr. Edward Gawel spoke on the water method of propagating leaves and use of a mixture of sand, vermiculite and peat moss for small plants.

A discussion on pollenization followed.

There was a display of thirty varieties of violets from members private collections.

Officers for 1952 are:

President,	Mrs. Dorothy Gray
Vice-Pres.,	Harold Thompson
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Andrew Leslie
Corres. Secy.,	Edward Gawel
Treasurer,	Mrs. Ruth Holtz

This group was organized November 27, 1950, and is the first local Chapter of the National African Violet Society.

Meetings are held every second Monday of each month at the Garden Center in Bell Isle Park. Membership now totals thirty-two.

ELGIN ILLINOIS

The Unique Saintpaulia Club of Elgin, Illinois, announce the following officers for 1952:

President,	Mrs. Joseph Cyka
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ernest Benson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Helen Walker
Secretary,	Mrs. Ray Neidert
Press Reporter,	Mrs. Wm. Jacobson
Librarian,	Mrs. John Wills
Year Book,	Miss Velda Lindholm

EAST ATHENS PENNSYLVANIA

The T, e, og a Point African Violet Club of East Athens, Pennsylvania, held their Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Harry Farr. A chicken supper and gift exchange was the highlight of the meeting.

Officers were elected as follows:

President,	A. W. Truesdale
Vice-Pres.,	Merton Everett
Secretary,	Mrs. Lydia Arnts
Treasurer,	G. L. Duggan

SIOUX CITY IOWA

Two projects are being worked on by the sixty-six members of the Siouxland African Violet Society of Sioux City, Iowa. The first project is for a show to be held in Sioux City on May 3. The second to supply over a hundred blooming violets for shut-ins in and around the city, which are to be distributed through the Sunshine League of Sioux City at their annual party in June.

At one of the club meetings leaves were sold after one of the members had used them in giving an illustrated talk on old and new varieties of violets. This money was then given to the club. At another meeting a member donated several plants which were auctioned off. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at the Sioux City Art Center.

DOWNERS GROVE ILLINOIS

The new officers of the African Violet Club of Downers Grove, Illinois, held their first meeting at the home of their new president, Mrs. S. P. McGraw, on January 3, 1952.

The club is two years old and limits the membership to eighteen members, as the meetings are held in the homes. A second club is being formed by Mrs. Robert Hanska, a charter member of the original club.

New officers are as follows:

President,	Mrs. S. P. McGraw
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. H. V. Sutter
Secretary,	Mrs. A. Giddings
Treasurer,	Mrs. E. Michael

Something NEW for African Violet Collectors

Attractive

Compact

Sturdy

Easily Moved

Holds More Than

200 — 3 inch

Flower Pots

Tube Craft FloraCart

The Portable Indoor Garden

Here is the answer to a long felt need for a compact, sturdy stand which would hold a large number of plants. Made of 1¼" diameter 16 guage steel tubing, this stand is light in weight, can be easily moved about and yet will hold more than 200 3" flower pots. It makes an attractive addition to any room, a fixture which every flower grower will want.

WILL GIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Made to the recommended standards of successful growers, this stand is well constructed, welded and bolted to support heavy loads, and will give years of satisfactory service.

ADJUSTABLE SHELVES

The FloraCart is equipped with three galvanized steel water tight trays 19" x 50" with a 1" flange which permits watering plants from the bottom -- the preferred method. These shelves are adjustable to a maximum height of 21" between levels. Provision has also been made for attaching standard fluorescent fixtures if desired. (Picture above shows lights installed.)

Overall size of stand when assembled 52" long x 19" deep x 52" high. Gray (baked enamel) finish. Comes complete with four ball bearing, rubber tired, 4" diameter, swivel casters. Shipped knocked down with all necessary fittings, including bolts and nuts, for easy home assembly.

Price of Standard Unit complete F. O. B. Cleveland , Ohio $52.50.

SMALLER SIZE FLORACART

ALSO AVAILABLE

The FloraCart also comes in a Junior Size -- 30" high x 35" long x 15" deep, equipped with two galvanized steel water tight trays 15" x 33" with 1" flange and four 2" swivel casters. Can be used conveniently in front of any average window. This model is not designed to accomodate fluorescent lamps. Price complete, F. O. B. Cleveland, Ohio $29.75.

Remit by check or money order. Ohio customers add 3% Sales Tax.

Order direct from

TUBE CRAFT, Inc.

1950 W. 114th St. Cleveland 2, Ohio

DAYTON OHIO

At the January meeting of the Amethyst African Violet Club of Dayton, Ohio, the following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Paul Hook
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. B. A. Hall
Secretary,	Mrs. F. D. Frantz
Treasurer,	Mrs. William Weiss

This club, with a membership of twenty-five, was organized over two years ago. A show is being planned for spring, and although it will be a small showing, a good selection of color and varieties will be exhibited.

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The Twilight Chapter of the African Violet Society of Chicago, Illinois was organized February 12, 1952, with a membership of twenty-seven.

The club meetings are held at the Norwegian Women's Society on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P. M.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Edward P. Garry
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Claude Greeley
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Miss Betty Boaz
Rec. Secy.,	Miss Pearl Heavey
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Kenneth Johnson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Bida V. Robbins
Historian,	Mrs. George Bernico

KENSINGTON CONNECTICUT

The second annual luncheon meeting of the Central Connecticut Saintpaulia Society was held November 13, 1951, at the Shuttle Meadow Club, Kensington,

Reports of officers and chairmen of committees were read, and four new members were welcomed.

The following officers were elected for two years:

President,	Mrs. Oliver Buckland
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ralph Filson
Secretary,	Mrs. George Hallin
Treasurer,	Mrs. Raymond Fraprie

A member discussion of violets followed. The meeting closed and members gathered at the opportunity table to purchase plants and leaves donated by the members. Proceeds of sales go to the treasury of the club.

DENVER COLORADO

The Amethyst Chapter of the African Violet Society of Denver, Colorado, elected the following officers for 1952:

President,	Mrs. George Meyers
Sec. Treas.,	Mrs. Leslie Hill

New Officers Long Beach Society

LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

The 1952 officers of the Long Beach African Violet Society were installed on Jan. 11, 1952, with Mrs. Ethel Thalheimer, past president as installing officer. Mrs. Thalheimer used as her theme "The Traveler" telling how this charming little plant was first found in East Africa and has since traveled all over the world.

The new officers are as follows:

President,	Mrs. Emily Moorefield
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Madeline Slocombe
Secretary,	Mrs. Margaret Slodek
Treasurer,	Mrs. Marian De Lapp

Mrs. Moorefield graciously pledged herself to carry on the activities of the Society to the best of her ability.

On January 17, Mrs. Irene Courson, jr-past president, held open house and a tea at her home honoring Alma Wright, editor of our Magazine, and Myrtle Radtke, past president of the African Violet Society of America. In spite of the "unusual" down-pour of rain, the affair was well attended and we all enjoyed Mrs. Wright's informal talk very much.

At the present writing, plans are being made for the annual Violet Show to be held in Long Beach this spring.

WINDSOR COLORADO

The African Violet Study group at Windsor, Colorado, will retain Mrs. R. A. Sanders as their leader.

OAK RIDGE TENNESSEE

The Oak Ridge African Violet Society, announces the following officers for 1952:

President,	Mrs. R. K. Browning
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Webster Gildersleve
Secretary,	Mrs. R. L. Jarry
Treasurer,	Mrs. John Price

Fischer . . Flowers

LINWOOD NEW JERSEY

presents

"The Three Superlatives"

☆ Most Elegant - Grand Award - A magnificent regal-blue double with huge flowers up to 1½" in diameter. An exceptionally fine plant, truly Monarch of the Doubles **$2.50**

☆ Most Unusual - Brussels Sprouts - "The Parrot Tulip of the Saintpaulia family" - a novelty alone in its class **$2.50**

☆ Most Exquisite - Aurora - Flowers are a delicate ruffled blue, subtly diffused with white. A plant of rare grace and character **$2.00**

"The Ballarinas"

Our fine new strain of fringed violets-brilliant successors to the "Fringettes"

☆ Minuet (mauve) **$2.00**
☆ Ballet (white) **2.00**
☆ Bolero (velvet blue) . . . **1.50**
☆ Polonaise (light blue) . . . **$1.50**
☆ Saraband (red lavender) . . **1.50**
☆ Carrousel (lavender blue) . **1.50**

"THE PROGRESS POT"

AN EXCITING NEW DISCOVERY. TESTED, PROVED AND USED IN OUR OWN GREENHOUSES.

CHECK THESE ADVANTAGES.

☆ Eliminates petiole rot
☆ Sterile -- no algae growth
☆ Light and unbreakable
☆ Attractive black finish
☆ Requires less water but drains well
☆ Inexpensive 2¼" pots 7½¢, 3" pots 10¢, minimum order 10 pots -- mailing 10c per dozen or each fraction.

Write today for free illustrative folder of our entire stock.

TERMS

Cash with orders, please - 10c per plant mailing on orders under $5.

FISCHER FLOWERS

DEPT. VM
LINWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Purity - -

First pure double white available.

Summer special

$1.50 each

Order direct from this ad.

ALL STAR BEGINNERS GROUP — 50¢ each

Blue Eyes, Redland, Double Russian, Pink, White, Jessie, Purple Prince.

GOOD STANDARD VARIETIES — 75¢ each

Rainbow Geneva	Lady Geneva	Tinted Lady
Red King	Fantasy	Purple Girl
Snow Prince	duPont Lavender Pink	Double Orchid
Violet Beauty	Blue Warrior	Double Neptune
Helen Wilson	Amazon Blue Eyes	Sailor Girl
Red Bi-Color	Amazon Purple Prince	Lavendar Girl Hybrid
Neptune	Blue Chard	

America, Mammoth Red — $1.00 each.

NEWEST VARIETIES — ALL DOUBLE FLOWERING — $1.25 each

Azure Beauty	Neptune	Velvet Bouquet
Dark Beauty	Navy Bouquet	Ruffles Bouquet
Sailor's Delight	Ruby Bouquet	
Double Orchid	Marine Bouquet	

Helen Wilson Bouquet, Wine Velvet, Painted Girl, Velvet Girl, Lacy Girl, Blue Heiress, Snow Girl, Christina, Geneva Star — $1.50 each.

ORDERS OF $10.00 OR OVER POSTPAID, UNDER ADD 50¢.

FREE! NEW SPRING CATALOG

Over 75 Select Varieties 50¢ up!

TINARI FLORAL GARDENS

Quantity price on request

BETHAYRES, PENNSYLVANIA